

## Communication from Public

**Name:** Brentwood Homeowners Association

**Date Submitted:** 03/02/2024 01:42 PM

**Council File No:** 23-0953

**Comments for Public Posting:** BHA OPPOSES the designation of 12305 5th Helena Drive as an Historic-Cultural Monument because it would be legally erroneous to determine that the property conforms with the definition of a Monument pursuant to LAMC Section 22.171.7 and it would be an abuse of discretion to include the Property in the list of Historic-Cultural Monuments. Please see the attached letter for documentation of this opposition to CMC Designation for 12305 Fifth Helena.



PO Box 49427 ■ Los Angeles, California 90049 ■ (424) BHA-8765 ■ [info@brentwoodhomeowners.org](mailto:info@brentwoodhomeowners.org)

March 1, 2024

Planning and Land Use Management Committee

Via email to: [clerk.plumcommittee@lacity.org](mailto:clerk.plumcommittee@lacity.org)

Re: CF 23-0953; 12305 West 5th Helena Drive / Marilyn Monroe Residence / Historic-Cultural Monument / Special Motion 1; OPPOSE

Dear Councilmembers,

The Brentwood Homeowners Association (BHA) represents approximately 4,500 single family homes and condominiums north of San Vicente Blvd to the Santa Monica Mountains, west of the 405, and east of Canyon View Drive. The property at 12305 West 5th Helena Drive ("Property") resides within these boundaries.

BHA opposes the designation of this property as an Historic-Cultural Monument for the following reasons:

- It would be legally erroneous to determine that the property at 12305 5th Helena Drive ("Property") conforms with the definition of a Monument pursuant to LAMC Section 22.171.7.
- It would be an abuse of discretion to include the Property in the list of Historic-Cultural Monuments.

**It would be legally erroneous to determine that the property at 12305 5th Helena Drive ("Property") conforms with the definition of a Monument pursuant to LAMC Section 22.171.7.**

The Cultural Heritage Commission ("CHC") found that the Property "is associated with the lives of historic personages important to national, state, city, or local history" as the home of Marilyn Monroe. However, that Finding was erroneously based on the CHC erroneously stating that the Property was the residence of Marilyn Monroe in 1962 (over 61 years ago). In fact, the California State Board of Equalization determined "At the time of her death in 1962, Marilyn Monroe was a resident of the State of New York." Further, Marilyn Monroe resided part of every year from 1957 to 1961 at the penthouse condo at 444 East 57th St in New York City.

There is no substantial evidence that supports the Property having been associated with the life of Marilyn Monroe. The primary association of the Property with Marilyn Monroe is as the place she committed suicide. The CHC was unable to find that Marilyn Monroe achieved significance or made historic contributions to the entertainment industry during her brief residence of less than a year at the Property. The only specific events of Marilyn Monroe at the Property that the CHC was able to cite were one interview with Richard Meryman and two photography sessions. If the CHC had looked at the article published after the Meryman interview, it would have found the following: "In the morning, the garbage men that go by 57th Street when I come out the door say, "Marilyn, hi! How do you feel this morning?" To me, it's an honour, and I love them for it." Hence, even in that one interview in 1962 (published after her death), Marilyn Monroe described her morning routine as associated with her New York residence. Another revealing statement in the article said: "She had refused LIFE any pictures of it, saying, "I don't want everybody to see exactly where I live, what my sofa or my fireplace looks like. Do you know the book Everyman? Well, I want to stay just in the fantasy of Everyman." In other words, Marilyn Monroe would be opposed to designating the Property as a Monument.

**It would be an abuse of discretion to include the Property in the list of Historic-Cultural Monuments.**

The Property is located at the end of a narrow cul de sac street. Making the Property a tourist site would endanger the safety and peace and quiet of the neighboring community. It is for this reason, among others, that the owner of the Property and the three surrounding homeowner associations (representing thousands of

residents) oppose the designation of the Property as a Monument. Attached are letters, incorporated herein, from the Brentwood Homeowners Association, Brentwood Park Property Owners Association, and Mandeville Canyon Association which prove it would be an abuse of discretion to designate the Property a Historic-Cultural Monument. The letters from these associations make clear that designation of the Property as a Monument would be of no benefit to the City of Los Angeles and, in fact, would have a significant adverse impact on the neighborhood.

The Property is privately owned and designation as a monument would not require the owner to give access to the Property to anyone. The owner graciously allowed Commissioners of the CHC to have access to the Property and they made their recommendation based in part on their experience on the Property. But anyone else who wished to view the Property would have to remain on public roadway and be able to see only a wall and gate. The purpose of a monument is to be seen and/or experienced in person – neither of which would be possible at the Property. It would be an abuse of discretion to designate the following view (the house in the background is NOT the Monroe house) as a Historic-Cultural Monument:



A prejudicial abuse of discretion is established if the City has not proceeded in a manner required by law or if the determination is not supported by substantial evidence. Such a prejudicial abuse of discretion would be demonstrated in this matter if City Council designates the Property as a Historic-Cultural Monument.

Sincerely,

*Thelma Waxman*

Thelma Waxman  
President

cc: Councilwoman Traci Park, CD-11  
Jeff Khau, CD-11 Planning Deputy  
Lambert Glessinger, LA City Planning  
Melissa Jones, LA City Planning

# *Brentwood Park*

February 1, 2024

Via USPS and e-mail

Councilwoman Traci Park  
200N Spring Street, Room 410  
Los Angeles, CA 90012

Dear Councilwoman Park,

We are contacting you as co-Presidents of the Brentwood Park Property Owners Association. We represent the more than 400 homeowners who live in close proximity to the property at 12305 West 5th Helena Drive that the Cultural Heritage Commission voted unanimously to prevent demolition efforts by its new homeowners.

As residents of the area, we strongly oppose the idea of having any unnecessary disruptive attractions in our neighborhood. Designating this house as a Historical Cultural Monument ("HCM") essentially turns it into a tourist attraction, and will bring a significant increase in automobile traffic, foot traffic, and tour buses to our quiet, narrow, residential streets. One of the many reasons people choose the west side to live is that it doesn't have as many of these kinds of attractions as areas like Hollywood or Beverly Hills.

The precedent that this sets is a very unsettling, as the home doesn't meet the city and state criteria for an HCM. If this house can be designated, despite not qualifying on the merits, then so many other houses in this area could receive similar designation without the appropriate meeting criteria. For instance, there are many "celebrities" who have lived, and currently live, in our neighborhood and this will become a model for ignoring homeowners' rights and will drive down property values for the neighborhood as a whole.

We strongly oppose designation of the home with a subsequent relocation, as has been floated as a potential solution. As research shows, once designated, the home will likely never be able to be moved given the extra time, expense and complications involved in moving an HCM in the city of Los Angeles. Even if it does eventually get relocated, we would realistically have to live with a designated monument/tourist attraction for nearly a decade or more before relocation - defeating the entire purpose of avoiding disruption. If the genuine intention is to relocate the home, then the only logical plan would be to work with the homeowners to relocate the home as soon as possible, and then designate it as a HCM once it arrives in its new location, protecting it for the long-term.

It is our understanding that the homeowners and the company that controls the Marilyn Monroe Estate, Authentic Brands Group, are willing to pay to have the home moved to a location that would provide greater access, can be viewed by more Angelenos and visitors to

our great city and allow our neighborhood to maintain the peace and tranquility that drew us all to Brentwood. For us, this is a win for everyone involved.

Thank you for your attention to this issue. We know how important your constituents are to you and how connected you are to the uniqueness of the west side and to what makes it so special. We would be happy to meet with you in person to discuss our concerns in greater detail.

Sincerely,

*John M. Mass*

John M. Mass  
co-President  
Brentwood Park Property Owners Assoc.

*Nina Zinterhofer Stanford*

Nina Zinterhofer Stanford  
co-President  
Brentwood Park Property Owners Assoc.





P.O. Box 49802  
Los Angeles, CA 90049  
[info@themca.org](mailto:info@themca.org)  
themca.org

February 19, 2024

Cultural Heritage Commission  
Los Angeles City Hall  
200 N. Spring Street  
Board of Public Works  
Edward R. Roybal Session Room, Room 350  
Los Angeles, CA 90012

Via email: [chc@lacity.org](mailto:chc@lacity.org)

Re: Case: CHC-2023-6134-HCM; 12305 West 5th Helena Drive

Dear President Barry Milofsky and Commissioners of the Cultural Heritage Commission:

The Mandeville Canyon Association represents more than 500 homeowners in the geographic territory that neighbors the Brentwood Homeowners Association, the Association which includes the property at 12305 West 5th Helena Drive ("Helena Property"). Although it is essential to acknowledge the historical significance of Marilyn Monroe with respect to her contributions to the entertainment industry, designating the Helena Property, where she lived for less than six months and where she likely committed suicide (see attached excerpts from LA Times Obituary of Aug. 6, 1962), as a Historic-Cultural Monument is not justified based on the criteria set by the Cultural Heritage Ordinance.

Based upon the facts and reasoning set forth below, the Mandeville Canyon Association strongly urges the Cultural Heritage Commission to (i) find that the property at 12305 West 5th Helena Drive does not conform with the definition of a Monument pursuant to Los Angeles Administrative Code Section 22.171.7, and to (ii) not declare the property a Historic-Cultural Monument.

The Staff Report fails to give any significance to the fact that Marilyn Monroe resided part of every year from 1957 to 1961 at the penthouse condo at 444 East 57th St in New York City, and the fact that the Opinion, dated April 22, 1975, of the State Board of Equalization of the State of California stated, in part:

*"At the time of her death in 1962, Marilyn Monroe was a resident of the State of New York. Her will was admitted to probate in New York on January 14, 1963, and Aaron R. Frosch, a New York resident, was named executor. Since Miss Monroe owned real and personal property located in California when she died, her will was, also admitted to probate in California on January 21, 1963, and Mr. Frosch was named ancillary executor." (emphasis added)*

The criteria for designation includes being "associated with the lives of historic personages important to national, state, city, or local history," and while Marilyn Monroe undoubtedly played a significant role in the entertainment industry on a national level, her brief stay in this particular home (Helena Property) at a time her career was "on the skids" (see attached excerpts from LA Times Obituary of Aug. 6, 1962) did not have a substantial impact on local history in Brentwood or Los Angeles.

The criteria for designation includes being "associated with important historic events or historic personages that shaped the growth, development, or evolution of Los Angeles or its communities," and Marilyn Monroe's short time in the Helena Property, marked by personal struggles and a tragic end, did not contribute positively to the growth or development of the community, and designating the Helena Property based on her short residence and death does not align with the intended purpose of preserving properties with historical or cultural significance (the Staff Report is able to only cite a few meetings at the Helena Property with photographers).

Designating any property of a celebrity based on their residence and death at the property would establish a bad precedent that is inconsistent with the purposes of the Cultural Heritage Ordinance and could lead to protection for numerous homes throughout Los Angeles that have little significance other than being the place identified as the home where the celebrity died. Designating the Helena Property as a Historic-Cultural Monument would have adverse impacts on the safety and peace and quiet of the current residents of the neighborhood due to the traffic on very narrow residential streets from sightseeing and celebrity home tour buses and self-guided celebrity tours. The MCA has concerns about the number of homes within our boundaries that could face such a designation if the standards fail to align with the intended purpose of the Code. The more appropriate place for persons to pay their respects to Marilyn Monroe (without creating a nuisance in a residential neighborhood) would be the Westwood Village Memorial Park & Mortuary where a number of Hollywood celebrities are buried (instead of a site at which nothing of significance occurred other than a death by suicide).

Sincerely,

*Brody Davis*

Brody Davis  
President

cc: Councilwoman Traci Park, CD-11  
Jeff Khau, CD-11 Planning Deputy  
Michael Amster, CD-11 Field Deputy

### **Facts From LA Times Marilyn Monroe Obituary Aug 6, 1962**

"An empty bottle found among several medicines beside her bed had contained 50 Nembutal capsules. The prescription was issued only two or three days ago and the capsules were to be taken in doses of one a night, said Dr. Hyman Engelberg."

"It was learned that medical authorities believed Miss Monroe had been in a depressed mood recently. She was unkempt and in need of a manicure and pedicure, indicating listlessness and a lack of interest in maintaining her usually glamorous appearance, the authorities added."

"Mrs. Murray found the bedroom door locked. She was unable to arouse Miss Monroe by shouts and rapping on the door, and immediately telephoned Dr. Greenson [psychiatrist]. Dr. Greenson took a poker from the fireplace, smashed in a window and climbed into the room."

"Byron [LAPD] said he went through the rambling Spanish style home at 12305 5th Helena Dr. and found 'nothing unusual or amiss. ... Miss Monroe only recently bought the \$75,000 house and it was only partially furnished."

"Miss Monroe was hopeful she could settle her difficulties with 20th Century-Fox Studios which earlier this summer fired her from the movie, 'Something's Got to Give.' The studio claimed she refused to report for work costing it \$2 million because of delays. It sued her for a half million dollars."

"Some believed Miss Monroe was depressed because her career was supposedly on the skids after two straight movie flops in 'Let's Make Love' and 'The Misfits' – her last two movies."





PO Box 49427 ■ Los Angeles, California 90049 ■ (424) BHA-8765 ■ [info@brentwoodhomeowners.org](mailto:info@brentwoodhomeowners.org)

January 16, 2024

Cultural Heritage Commission  
Los Angeles City Hall  
200 N. Spring Street  
Board of Public Works  
Edward R. Roybal Session Room, Room 350  
Los Angeles, CA 90012

Via email: [chc@lacity.org](mailto:chc@lacity.org)

Re: Case: CHC-2023-6134-HCM; 12305 West 5th Helena Drive

Dear President Barry Milofsky and Commissioners of the Cultural Heritage Commission:

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Sincerely,

*Thelma Waxman*

Thelma Waxman  
President

cc: Councilwoman Traci Park, CD-11  
Jeff Khau, CD-11 Planning Deputy

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"Miss Monroe was hopeful she could settle her difficulties with 20th Century-Fox Studios which earlier this summer fired her from the movie, 'Something's Got to Give.' The studio claimed she refused to report for work costing it \$2 million because of delays. It sued her for a half million dollars."

"Some believed Miss Monroe was depressed because her career was supposedly on the skids after two straight movie flops in 'Let's Make Love' and 'The Misfits' – her last two movies."

## Communication from Public

**Name:** Amy Minter

**Date Submitted:** 03/02/2024 03:33 PM

**Council File No:** 23-0953

**Comments for Public Posting:** Documentation is Support of CMC Designation for 12305 Fifth Helena - PART TWO





**Main Office Phone:**  
310-798-2400  
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310-798-2409

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**Amy C. Minter**  
Email Address:  
[acm@cbcearthlaw.com](mailto:acm@cbcearthlaw.com)

February 29, 2024

*Via Email and Public Comment Portal*

Los Angeles City Council and Planning & Land Use Management Committee  
c/o Holly L. Wolcott, City Clerk  
City Hall, Room 395  
200 N. Spring Street  
Los Angeles, CA 90012

Re: Support for Designation of 12305 Fifth Helena Drive as Historic-Cultural  
Monument; Council File 23-0953

Honorable Commissioners:

On behalf of the Monroe Preservation Group, LLC, we provide the enclosed documentation in support of the designation of 12305 Fifth Helena Drive as an Historic-Cultural Monument. This documentation includes the Report we submitted to the Cultural Heritage Commission on October 16, 2023 and an Addendum to that report, submitted January 4, 2024, which is intended to be considered in conjunction with the previously submitted documentation. This Report and Addendum provide information in support of the designation regarding the site's connection to influential Los Angeles architect, Harbin Hunter.

Thank you for your time and consideration in this matter.

Sincerely,



Amy Minter

Enclosures:

Report in Support of Hunter-Monroe Residence  
Addendum to Report

**ADDENDUM TO THE OCTOBER 2023, HUNTER-MONROE DOSSIER  
(SUBMITTED BY THE “MONROE PRESERVATION GROUP”)  
12305 5th Helena Dr, Los Angeles, CA 90049  
CHC-2023-6134-HCM**

This addendum to the original October 2023 Historic-Cultural Monument dossier submission for the Hunter-Monroe residence, (this “Addendum”), was written by **Remi Gangarossa** ([remi.gangarossa@gmail.com](mailto:remi.gangarossa@gmail.com)) and **April VeVea** ([april.vevea90@gmail.com](mailto:april.vevea90@gmail.com)), of the Monroe Preservation Group.

The following individuals, which comprise the remainder of the Monroe Preservation Group (MPG) members, provided invaluable information and guidance to the original submission and also to this addendum:

- **Scott Fortner**
- **Elisa Jordan**
- **Kelly Lacroix**
- **Gary Vitacco-Robles**

Name of Proposed Monument

Hunter-Monroe Residence

Street Address

12305 W 5th Helena Dr.

Assessor’s Parcel Number

4405040005

Legal Description

Tract Number: TR - 5462

Lot Number: 20

Present Owner

Andrew Sahure

Glory of the Snow 1031 Trust

12305 5th Helena Dr

Los Angeles, CA 90049

## Purpose of Addendum

After further due diligence by the Monroe Preservation Group (hereinafter referred to as “MPG”), we’ve identified numerous links of the Hunter Family to the Brentwood home in question. We believe one infallible link historically reshapes the home’s connection to the Hunters, as well as Los Angeles native and Hollywood icon Marilyn Monroe.

The Hunter Family, beginning with Captain Jesse D. Hunter, was notably amongst the first to construct modern-day Los Angeles. Achieving most of his wealth in the California Gold Rush of 1849, and investing that wealth in the initial development of Los Angeles, Jesse Hunter (and the Hunter family), have left an indelible mark on Los Angeles history. Through a lineage of settlers and architects throughout the 1800’s and 1900’s, the Hunter family significantly cultivated and developed integral parts of Southern California. The great-grandchild of Jesse Hunter, Harbin Hunter, is responsible for the development of the property this petition advocates for (12305 Fifth Helena).

For decades, a latin phrase inscribed on four tiles installed outside the home’s front door, “Cursum Perficio,” was widely recognized as a foreboding signal to the fate of Monroe. The phrase, commonly translated as “My Journey Ends Here,” has frequently gotten classified by fans as an omen of Monroe’s premature passing within six months of moving into the first property she purchased in Los Angeles.

In a bombshell revelation, the Monroe Preservation Group uncovered these tiles' true meaning—the historic family crest of the Hunters. The Hunter ancestors translated the phrase as “I Will Complete the Course” or “I Accomplish the Race,” thus weaving an alternative significance of “persistence” into the Hunter’s contribution to Los Angeles history, the property in question, and Monroe’s legacy.

The hunting hound at the top of the tiles, “allegorizes the ‘dogged’ determination” to “persist.” These very tiles are a reminder to the relevant governing bodies, who have sworn to protect Los Angeles’s history, that the Hunter family’s legacy of building, should “persist” against any desire to destroy a symbol of early Los Angeles architecture.

Rather than attempting to replace the original submission, this document is hereby submitted in support of the October submission by MPG. After months of research, we feel the following documentation is necessary for inclusion to better help the City of Los Angeles to come to an educated decision when considering the fate of the Hunter/Monroe house. Therefore, we present seven additional points to the relevance of the Hunter family and Los Angeles history. Section 1 consists of the aforementioned Cursum Perficio tiles showing both their connection to the Hunters as well as their preservation through 2017. Section 2 briefly explores the history of the Brentwood area of Los Angeles and how the home predates the modern “Brentwood” name. Section 3 shows how another Hunter residence, Hunter Ranch, previously got declared a historical monument. Section 4 showcases the Hunter family’s genealogy. Section 5 provides supporting documentation to allow the reader to understand who Harbin Hunter was and his ties to Los Angeles. Section 6 explores Harbin Hunter’s connection with esteemed architect John DeLario, his previous

design choices getting utilized in the building of Fifth Helena, and Monroe's dedication to restoring the property to Hunter's original plans after extensive remodeling in the 1950s. Finally, Section 7 provides readers with an introduction to some of Hunter's other work. To keep this work succinct due to the voluminous amount of supporting evidence uncovered, we opted to include a brief introduction explaining each section while supporting our points through photographs and documentation. When possible, we refer back to our October 2023 submission if readers seek more context.

By the very nature of the Hunter family crest adorning the front steps at 12305 Fifth Helena, there is an innate declaration to "persist" beyond the dangers of the proposed demolition. We believe this addendum will allow readers to recognize why the house needs preservation as well as allowing them to better appreciate the importance of the home to Los Angeles history. Although some may feel the home only deserves preservation due to its most famous resident, Marilyn Monroe, we believe the cultural, societal, and architectural history makes the home worthy of saving. Our group holds the firm belief that if this historical monument isn't safe, no house in Los Angeles County is safe.



# **Section 1**

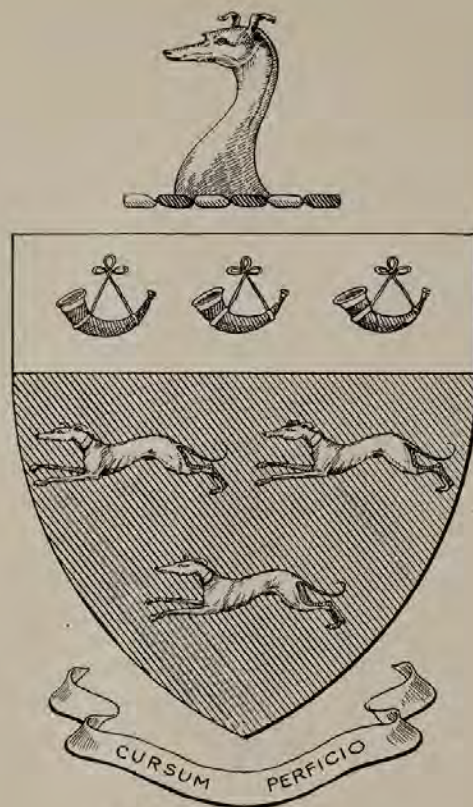
## **Cursum Perficio**

The Hunter & Monroe Legacies Woven Together

### **“Cursum Perficio”**

The significance of the “Cursum Perficio” tiles outside the home should no longer be attributed exclusively to Marilyn Monroe, but also to the Hunter family who built and lived in the house. It’s this same family that are some of the first settlers in Los Angeles, and who span two centuries of building and cultivating modern Los Angeles during its infancy. Figures 1-3 show the Hunter Family crest as depicted by Edwin G. Hunter in a lithograph from 1925 compared to how the crest appears outside of the proposed Hunter/Monroe Historic-Cultural Monument in 2012 and 2017. Although there are additional elements added to the crest located at 12305 Fifth Helena, the basic design elements of the 1925 lithograph are visibly present, including the greyhound head, three horns and three greyhounds on a shield, as well as the “Cursum Perficio” motto on a scroll. Figure 4A shows Richard Hunter, father of Harbin Hunter, residing at the address in 1930 according to the Los Angeles City Directory from that year while Figure 4B shows Richard and Martha Hunter’s voter registration listing in 1948, the last year they lived in the home. Finally, Figure 4C shows Harbin residing in the home with his parents in 1930.

We believe this supporting evidence shows not only the Hunters resided in the home but also had a firm hand in its creation and design. Although building permits were not issued by the City of Los Angeles until 1933, and Harbin Hunter’s design archive is assumed lost, we believe the tiles overwhelmingly show the Hunter family built the home for themselves and had every intention of staying in the home (which they did until 1948). For more information as to which Hunters lived in the home as of 1930, we refer readers to the original submission’s Statement of Significance, Period of Significance: 1929-1962, paragraph 3.



**Hunter**

OF HUNTERSTON, COUNTY AYR, SCOTLAND

ARMS - VERT, THREE DOGS OF THE CHASE,  
 COURANT, ARGENT, COLLARED, OR; ON A  
 CHIEF OF THE SECOND, THREE HUNTING  
 HORNS, OF THE FIRST, STRINGED, GULES,  
 CREST - A GREYHOUND'S HEAD AND NECK,  
 COUPED, ARGENT,  
 MOTTO - CURSUM PERFICIO, "I ACCOMPLISH  
 THE RACE"

Figure 1 - Hunter Family Crest, Edwin G. Hunter, *The Descendants of Dr. James Hunter*, 1925, pg. 17



Figure 2 - Front door, 2012, % TheMLS.com





Figure 3 - Cursum Perficio entryway tiles, 2017, % Philip Treacy

Chas  
er Jacob  
av intersects  
aymond  
L W  
B

L (o)  
S B Mrs d s

E (o)  
D (o)  
av intersects

Ernest  
E C  
E  
C O

H  
E A Mrs  
J H  
A Mrs  
Alfonso  
C  
W F (o)  
Rudolph

Richland av intersects  
2620 Richland Avenue  
School

**FIFTEENTH HELENA  
DRIVE (Brentwood  
Heights)—E a s t from  
141 S Carmelina av**

**FIFTH HELENA DRIVE  
(Brentwood Heights)  
East from 333 Carmelina  
av**

12304 Arnoldy F N  
12305 Hunter Richd

**FLOWER AV (Venice)—  
East from 6th av to 7th  
av bet Rose and Sunset  
avs**

601 Rockefeller J D  
603 Garberg E M  
603½ Vacant  
605 Ketchum Jean Mrs  
(o)  
611 Hermann A E (o)  
612a Slaughter J C  
612b Howard Floyd

Figure 4A - Proof of Richard Hunter living at 12305 Fifth Helena the year after construction completed, City of Los Angeles, 1930, *Los Angeles City Directory*.



....Herreshoff, James B, 12313 12th Helena dr, R  
....Hertel, Mrs Maria E, 242 S Carmelina av, R  
....Hertel, Roy S, 242 S Carmelina av, R  
....Hill, Miss Evelyn F, 12303 2nd Helena dr, D  
....Hill, Walter B, 12303 2nd Helena dr, D  
....Hirschman, Mrs Doris, 323 S Carmelina av, D  
....Holm, Mrs Ethel T, 345 S Carmelina ay, R  
....Holm, Harold A, 345 S Carmelina av, R  
....Holm, Miss Virginia L, 345 S Carmelina av, R  
....Hoover, Vaino A, 245 S Carmelina av, D  
....Hoover, Mrs Judith M, 245 S Carmelina av, R  
....Howell, Lawrence R, 12300 1st Helena dr, D  
....Hunter, Mrs Martha V, 12305 5th Helena dr, R  
....Hunter, Richard, 12305 5th Helena dr, D  
....Huycke, David T, 211 Medio dr, R  
....Huycke, Harold D, 211 Medio dr, R  
....Huycke, Harold D Jr, 211 S Medio dr, R  
....Huycke, Mrs Isabel W, 211 Medio dr, R  
....Ice, Miss Dorothy, 104 S Medio dr, D  
....Jacobs, James C, 120 Medio dr, R  
....Jacobs, Mrs Elizabeth B, 120 Medio dr, R

Figure 4B - Proof of Richard and Martha Hunter living at 12305 Fifth Helena shortly before selling the home, City of Los Angeles, 1948, *Index to Register of Voters*.

ABBREVIATIONS TO BE USED IN COLUMNS INDICATED:		Col. 6—Indicate the home-maker in each family by the letter "H," follow- ing the word which shows the relationship, as "Wife-H"	Col. 9—Radio set..... R Make no entry for families having no radio set.....	Col. 12—White..... W Negro..... N Mexican..... M Indian..... I Chinese..... Ch Japanese..... J	Filipino..... Fil Hindu..... Hin Korean..... Kor Other races, spell out in full	Col. 14—Single..... S Married..... M Widowed..... Wd Divorced..... D
[Use no abbreviations for State or country of birth or for mother tongue. (Columns 18, 19, 20, and 21)]	Col. 7—Owned..... O Rented..... R	Col. 11—Male..... M Female..... F				

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## **Section 2**

12305 Fifth Helena - Predating Modern Brentwood

### **Predating Modern Brentwood**

Before 1933, the Brentwood neighborhood was almost exclusively referred to as Westgate, Brentwood Heights or Brentwood Country Club. Although the citizens of Westgate and Brentwood voted to annex into Los Angeles on April 24, 1916 (and not the often cited July 4, 1916) (Fig. 5), it would take nearly two decades for the area of Brentwood to form outside of neighborhood names—or the all encompassing “Brentwood district”—when regularly referring to the area (Figures 6-7). From late 1933 to the present, unless referencing a specific neighborhood, the area became universally known as Brentwood. Because of this information, we believe the home predates modern Brentwood as we know it.



## WESTGATE VOTES TO JOIN CITY.

**Twenty Thousand Acres Added  
to Los Angeles by Margin  
of Forty-three Votes.**

By a majority of forty-three votes, the residents of the Westgate district voted in favor of annexation to Los Angeles at the election conducted in that district yesterday. This territory will increase the acreage of the city by approximately 20,000 acres.

The Westgate district takes in a portion of the Malibu precinct, all of Westgate proper, a portion of the Beverly Glen precinct and a portion of the Country Club precinct. The territory extends from the city limits of Santa Monica to the city limits of Beverly Hills, to the southerly line of the San Fernando Valley and thence to a point about three miles north of Santa Monica, and will include the Santa Monica Long Wharf.

The votes cast in special annexation precinct No. 1, were 115 for, and 84 against, and in precinct No. 2, 19 for, and 5 against, a total of 223 votes.

Figure 5 - Annex announcement, April 25, 1916, *Los Angeles Times*.

*West Los Angeles* Fifty thousand persons make their homes in the West Los Angeles district, comprising the following communities, all within the city limits of Los Angeles: Bel-Air, Brentwood Green, Brentwood Heights, Brentwood Park, Highland Hills, Pacific Palisades, the Rivas, Santa Monica Canyon, Sawtelle, Westwood Hills and other residential centers.

During the last year the \$240,000 auditorium and theater of University High School was completed. Sepulveda Boulevard, which gives direct access by tunnel to San Fernando Valley, is being surfaced.

Figure 6 - News snippet referring to Brentwood in neighborhoods rather than a living area as we know it today, January 3, 1933, *Los Angeles Times*.

**West  
Los Angeles** West Los  
Angeles  
covers a n  
area of approximately seventy-  
five square miles of the city of  
Los Angeles, within which are  
mountains, beaches, beautiful  
residential areas, every form of  
outdoor recreation, and nine  
business centers. Westwood Hills,  
Brentwood, Bel-Air and Santa  
Monica Canyon are all in this  
district.

Here are found many famous  
golf courses, among them the  
Riviera Golf Course, the scene of  
many tournaments; the Bel-Air  
Country Club, Brentwood Coun-  
try Club, Los Angeles Country  
Club, Rancho Golf Course, Hill-  
crest Country Club, California  
Country Club, Westwood Public  
Golf Course, and others. Also  
the polo fields of the Uplifters'  
Club, the Los Angeles Athletic  
Club and Will Rogers's ranch. At  
the municipal playground is a  
swimming pool which is the sec-  
ond largest in the city of Los  
Angeles.

Figure 7 - The name "Brentwood" encompasses the entire modern-day area rather than describing it by neighborhoods, January 2, 1934, *Los Angeles Times*.

## **Section 3**

The “Hunter Ranch House” is on the Historic-Cultural Monument List, demonstrating the Hunter family significance to Los Angeles history already.  
(CHC-2019-1822-HCM)

**Hunter Ranch House (HCM)**

Another Hunter home, located at 1309 North Killarney Avenue, on the famous Hunter Ranch (the “Hunter Ranch House”), was recently approved as a Historic-Cultural Monument (CHC-2019-1822-HCM). This nomination demonstrates the significance of the Hunter family to Los Angeles history. We believe this property getting deemed a Historic-Cultural Monument shows the City of Los Angeles recognizing the importance of the Hunter family to the area and should continue to protect the family’s legacy by saving the home of Richard and Martha Hunter most likely designed and built by their son, Harbin.

No.	Name	Address	CHC No.	CF No.	Adopted	Community Plan Area	CD	Notes
1182	Tom Bergin's	840 South Fairfax Avenue	CHC-2018-5803-HCM	19-0293	06/18/2019	Wilshire	4	
1183	Grand Central Market	315 South Broadway	CHC-2019-248-HCM	19-0548	07/02/2019	Central City	14	
1184	Million Dollar Theater Building	306 West 3rd Street	CHC-2019-244-HCM	19-0547	07/02/2019	Central City	14	
1185	Roberts Apartments	3740-3744 Landa Street; 1780 North Griffith Park Boulevard	CHC-2019-254-HCM	19-0549	07/02/2019	Silver Lake - Echo Park - Elysian Valley	13	
1186	The Comedy Union	5040 West Pico Boulevard	CHC-2018-5097- HCM; CHC--2019-853	18-1240	08/13/2019	Wilshire	10	
1187	Green Dog & Cat Hospital	1544 West Slauson Avenue	CHC-2019-1120-HCM	19-0585	08/03/2019	South Los Angeles	8	
1188	Collins Hacienda	5689 Holly Oak Drive	CHC-2019-1827-HCM	19-0800	09/17/2019	Hollywood	4	
1189	Hunter Ranch House	1309 Killarney Avenue	CHC-2019-1822-HCM	19-0799	09/17/2019	Northeast Los Angeles	1	
1190	The Miller Residence	5060 Los Feliz Boulevard	CHC-2019-2304-HCM	19-0905	10/08/2019	Hollywood	4	
1191	Parry Residence	14924 West Camarosa Drive	CHC-2019-776-HCM	19-0888	10/08/2019	Brentwood - Pacific Palisades	11	
1192	Orange Street Gateway Chateaux South	6400 W Orange Street	CHC-2019-2307-HCM	19-0902	10/08/2019	Wilshire	5	
1193	Orange Street Gateway Chateaux North	6401 W Orange Street	CHC-2019-2309-HCM	19-0903	10/08/2019	Wilshire	5	
1194	New Temple Missionary Baptist Church	8734 South Broadway	CHC-2019-4225-HCM	19-0886	10/22/2019	Southeast Los Angeles	8	
1195	Dodd Playa del Rey Residence	8207 Delgany Avenue	CHC-2019-3111-HCM	19-1054	11/05/2019	Westchester - Playa del Rey	11	
1196	Fred C. Thomson Building	6536 Sunset Boulevard & 1450 Seward Street	CHC-2019-3115-HCM	19-1067	11/05/2019	Hollywood	13	
1197	Morris Abrams Chateau des Roses	515 E. Rose Avenue, 254 S Rennie Avenue	CHC-2019-3118-HCM	19-1056	11/05/2019	Venice	11	

6/3/2022

City of Los Angeles  
Department of City Planning

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Figure 8 - Department of City Planning's Historic-Cultural Monument List showing the Hunter Ranch House as number 1189. Department of City Planning, The "Hunter Ranch House" listing on the Historic-Cultural Monument List, City of Los Angeles, June 3, 2022, *Historic-Cultural Monument (HCM) List, City Declared Monuments*, pg. 83.



The original Hunter Ranch dated from 1856, when Jesse D. Hunter, Los Angeles brick maker and former Captain of the Mormon Battalion from the Mexican War paid \$5,000.00 and traded a brick house that he had built on Fort Street (Now Broadway) to Louis Granger, Esq. who had acquired the Rancho Cañada de los Nogales from Jose Maria Aguilar in 1853. The Rancho had been granted to Aguilar in 1844 by Mexican Governor Miguel Micheltorena and was one half league portion of the Rancho San Rafael. It was later confirmed by the lands commission and recorded in Sacramento, but due that it was within the older San Rafael grant and Hunter had also bought the Southern portion of that Rancho from Julio Verdugo in 1859, the Patent for the later Rancho was never recorded in Los Angeles County.

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Captain Hunter died in August of 1871 at the age of 71. His wife, Keziah sold the land now known as the communities of Mount Washington, Cypress Park and Glassell Park to Los Angeles attorneys George W. Morgan and Albert H. Judson in 1882. They subdivided the land as the Hunter Highland View Tract leaving a large part of Mount Washington as open space, which they then sold to Charles Gassen. Gassen ran his own ranch on the land until 1905, when it was deeded to the Riverside Heights Company, which subdivided part of it as Tract No. 343. In 1924, Blocks 10 and 11 of Tract No. 343 was transferred to Los Angeles architect/developer Frank L. Meline, who proceeded to subdivide Block 10 and the Northern part Block 11 into Tract No. 7982 which he named "Franklin Park". Several months later he filed Tract No. 6831, which included the remaining portion of Block 11 as a 84.799 acre Lot "A" and a much smaller 0.738 acre Lot "B", which was quickly sold. In 1926, Lot "A" was transferred to the Franklin Park Company, most probably in anticipation of a second phase for the earlier tract. But the stock market crash in October 1929 put an end to the building boom of the 1920s and the property was transferred to Title Insurance and Trust Company in 1930.

Figure 9 - History of the Hunter family as prepared by Charles J. Fisher, 2019. The "Hunter Ranch House" Nomination Form, *Historic-Cultural Monument Nomination Form*, pg. 15-16

# **Section 4**

## Genealogy

**Genealogy of the Hunter family**

Various members of the Hunter family are cited as “pioneers” in historical newspapers and biographical books. We have divided Section 4 into two subsections to introduce readers to Harbin Hunter’s lineage: Jesse and Keziah Hunter (Harbin’s great-grandparents) and Asa and Petra Hunter (Harbin’s grandparents). Previous discussions on Harbin and his parents, Richard and Martha, can be located in the original submission. We believe this pertinent information allows readers to better understand Harbin’s deep connection to the Los Angeles area as well as showcasing a long line of familial achievements that directly contributed to the formation of Los Angeles as people know it today.

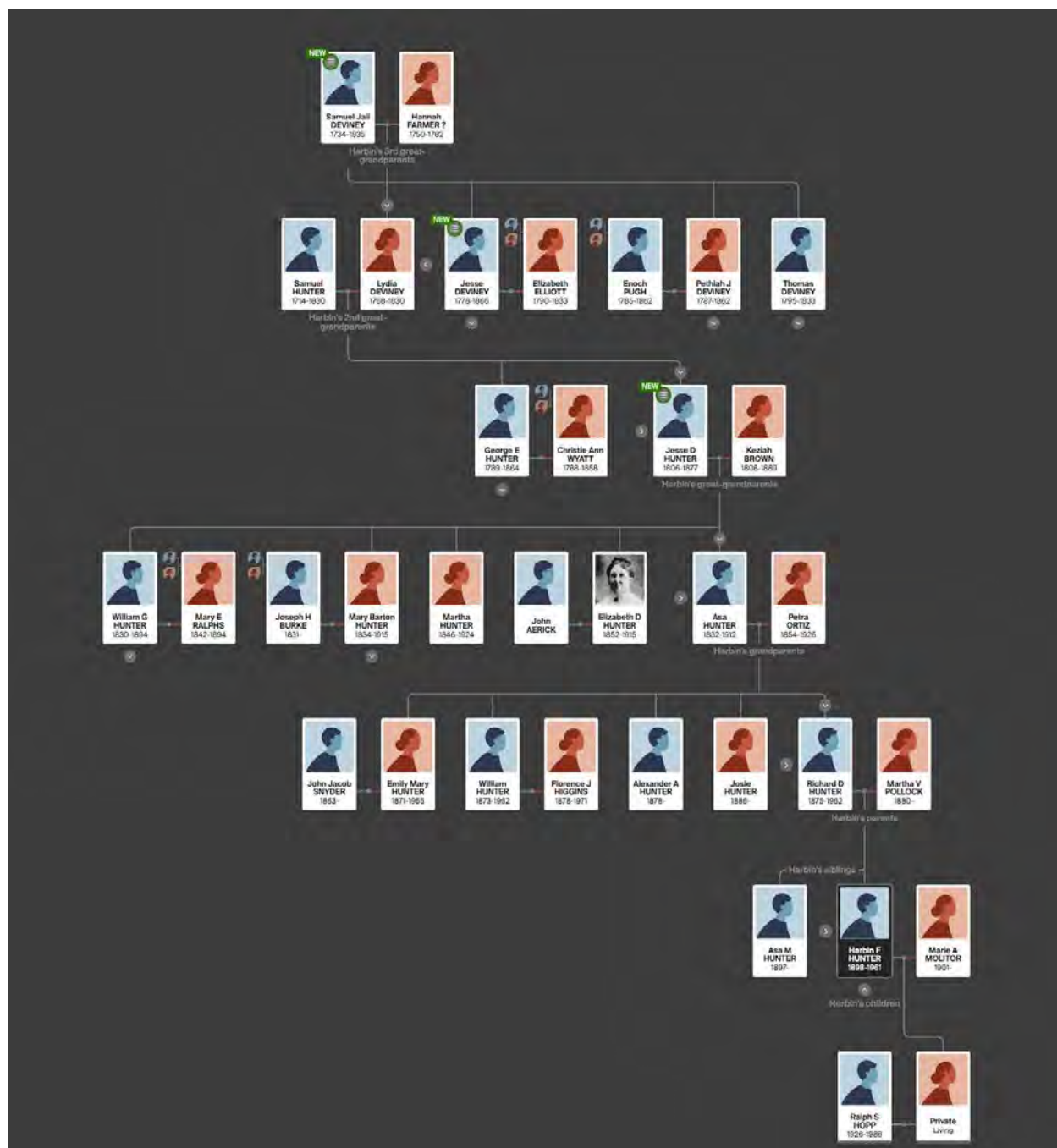


Figure 10 - Hunter Family Tree as created by Remi Gangarossa, 2023.

## Captain Jesse and Mrs. Keziah (Brown) Hunter

As the first Hunters to settle in the area, Jesse and Keziah Hunter seem determined to make Los Angeles a thriving city in any way possible. Captain Jesse Hunter made his fortune during the San Francisco Gold Rush of 1849 before traveling down to modern-day Los Angeles. With previous experience as a brick manufacturer, Hunter quickly began to mass-produce the building material to create what would eventually become a thriving metropolis. He built the first brick home in the area in 1853, only four years after the sovereignty of the area changed from Mexico to the United States and well before the Santa Fe Line's installation in 1885. According to Charles Dwight Willard, Jesse began making bricks in 1852 and promptly set out to construct a home followed by a jail (Fig. 11). The building of a jail by Hunter is not shocking when one considers the lawlessness rippling through the area, resulting in a time period Willard would call, "Los Angeles at its Worst."<sup>1</sup> Although some sources claim Hunter "burnt the first brick in Los Angeles" (Fig. 12), it seems more likely Hunter was the first to mass-produce the building material for permanent developments. Although both the Spanish and Mexican residents previously utilized bricks for crafting homes and missions, they primarily relied upon adobe bricks which took weeks to fully set, resulting in structures taking years to build. Due to the ever-increasing population of Los Angeles, it simply wasn't feasible to continue a reliance on adobe. Hunter's brickwork allowed the city to house its ever-increasing population boom, especially after gold in the Sierra Nevadas began to dry up and miners found they wanted to move to the warmer climate of Southern California. Hunter's contributions to the creation of Los Angeles were well-known to the point where J.M. Guinn references him no less than three times in his 1907 book, *A History of California* (Fig. 13). However, Jesse's wife, Keziah, commonly gets relegated to a footnote as the mother of his ten children. In reality, Keziah (Brown) Hunter led a relatively adventurous life for a woman in the time period, including being a member of the second family to arrive by ox in Salt Lake City (Fig. 14). It's not shocking the adventurous couple would stay together in rambunctious early Los Angeles, contributing to the creation of a youthful city as free-spirited as they were.

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<sup>1</sup> Charles Dwight Willard, *The Herald's History of Los Angeles*, Los Angeles: December 1901, 279.

The making of brick was begun by J. D. Hunter in 1852, and the first structure built of them was at Third and Main; the second was a jail building. In 1858 over two million brick were sold for a number of improvements that were either under way or were projected, such as the Temple market house, afterward taken over by the county for \$40,000, to be used as a court house, the southern portion of the Temple block, the brick flouring mill of Stearns & Scott, now the Capitol Milling Co., and the Arcadia block on Arcadia and Los Angeles.

Figure 11 - Jesse Hunter's contributions to the creation of modern-day Los Angeles as reported by Charles Dwight Willard in *The Herald's History of Los Angeles*, December 1901.



## LOS ANGELES IN THE ADOBE AGE.

BY J. M. GUINN.

[Published in Los Angeles Daily Times, Jan. 1, 1898.]

Cities in their growth and development pass through distinctive ages in the use of the material of which they are built. Most of the large cities of the United States began their existence in the wooden age, and have progressed successively through the brick and stone age, the iron age, and are entering upon the steel age. The cities of the extreme Southwest—those of New Mexico, Arizona, Utah and Southern California—like ancient Babylon and imperial Rome, began their existence in the clay or adobe age. It took our own city of Los Angeles three-quarters of a century to emerge from the adobe age.

At the time of the final conquest of the city by the United States troops (January 10, 1847,) there was not within its limits (if I am rightly informed,) a building built of any other material than adobe, or sun-dried brick. The first wooden building built in Los Angeles was erected in 1851. It was framed in Boston, and the material, all shaped ready for putting together, was shipped around the Horn—a sea voyage of 18,000 miles. The material was hauled from San Pedro to the city on old carretas or Mexican ox carts. This building was erected on the site now occupied by the old Merced Theater, on North Main street, just south of the Pico House, or National Hotel, as it is now called. Another wooden building, among the first built in the city, was the "Three Sisters," so called from its three gables and parallel roof ridges giving it the appearance of three separate houses. It was built by Henry Dalton. The material in it was mahogany, brought from Central America. It stood on the southern part of the present site of the Central Block on North Spring street. The first iron house was built in 1852. The material, shaped and numbered ready for putting together, was shipped from England to Los Angeles via Cape Horn. It stood on or near the corner of Court and North Spring street. The first brick burned in the city was made by Jesse Hunter in 1852. The first brick house was built by Hunter in 1853. It is still standing. It is the story-and-a-half dwelling just north of

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the Van Nuys Hotel, on the Downey property, west side of Main street near Fourth street. It was considered in early days quite an aristocratic residence. Adobe as a building material continued to be used to a limited extent for at least a decade after the American conquest. It fell into disuse, not because it was expensive or because it was unsuited to the climate—an adobe house, well constructed, is one of the most comfortable of dwellings, warm in winter, cool in summer. It fell into disuse because the process of preparing and building with it was too tedious and too slow for a fast age. An adobe house, like Rome, was not built in a day. It took five years to build the Plaza Church. Having briefly sketched the transition period of our city's growth, when wood and brick came into use as building material, I turn back to my theme, the adobe age of the old pueblo.

Figure 12 - Book excerpt crediting Jesse D. Hunter as the person burning the first brick and also building the first brick house in Los Angeles. J.M. Guinn, 1897, *Annual Publication of the Historical Society of Southern California and Pioneer Register*, Los Angeles, pg. 49-50.



ranch. Her mother was Elizabeth, daughter of Crumlin LaDue, who was a pioneer settler in Cowlitz county, Wash., where Mrs. Gehring was born. She was a member of a family of six children, all of whom are now living. By her first marriage she became the mother of three children, Jesse, Benjamin S. and Charles C., all living at home. Mr. Gehring is a member of Elsinore Lodge, I. O. O. F., and politically affiliates with the Democratic party. Although his life is a busy one, largely taken up with business duties, yet he finds time and opportunity to aid in the upbuilding of his section of the country and occupies a prominent position among his fellow-citizens.

**JESSE D. HUNTER.** There was no more prominent figure among the pioneer settlers of Los Angeles than the late Jesse D. Hunter, whose name stands out in bold relief in its annals. He was a fine representative of the men whose shrewd foresight and determined energy opened the way for the settlement of this part of the state, and were ever active in developing its varied resources. Coming to Los Angeles county in 1847, it was his privilege and pleasure to watch its growth from the very beginning, and to play an important part in promoting its industrial prosperity. Moving from Kentucky with his family, he lived for a number of years in Hancock county, Ill., being there engaged in agricultural pursuits.

Enlisting as a private in the Mormon battalion, under command of Gen. Cook, in 1847, he was a member of the same company to which Mr. Charles E. Colton, now an honored resident of Burbank, belonged, and with his comrades came to California. While in the army he met with various thrilling experiences, passing through all the excitement, danger, sport, and occasional hardships incident to camp life, these being occasionally varied by a brief visit from the noble red man and his squaw. In 1849 Mr. Hunter went north to meet his family, as related in the sketch of his son Asa, on another page of this work, and after his return to this part of the state was for awhile employed by the Government as Indian Agent at Temecula. Going from there to San Bernardino, he was engaged in cattle raising for a few months, after which he located in Los Angeles. Establishing himself as the pioneer brick manufacturer of the place, Mr. Hunter burned the bricks for many of the prominent buildings of earlier days, including among others the brick jail which occupied the present site of the People's Store, on Spring street; a building at the corner of Main and Third streets; a house on the corner of Commercial and Los Angeles streets; several brick

buildings near the race track; and a small building on the spot now occupied by the shop belonging to John Myers. As a manufacturer he was successfully assisted by his son Asa, and the two carried on a substantial business, brick being then worth \$25.00 a thousand.

Retiring from manufacturing pursuits, Mr. Hunter bought about twenty-two hundred acres of land lying just north of the city, on the east side of the river, and subsequently purchased three hundred acres on the opposite side of the stream. Engaging in the care of his land, he improved a large and valuable ranch, on which he lived, honored and respected, until his death, at the advanced age of seventy-five years. He was a comparatively robust man until the last year of his life, when he met with a painful accident while driving, his horse and cart falling upon him, and breaking his hip. From 1849 until his death, Mr. Hunter was a continuous resident of this part of California, never going out of Los Angeles county excepting on the one or two occasions that he went to San Francisco to have his hip treated. He was widely and favorably known as a man of unblemished character, and his death was regretted as a loss to the community in which he had passed so many years. He belonged to the Masons when young, and for a number of years drew a pension from the government for services rendered to his country.

Mr. Hunter married Keziah Brown, who bore him ten children, two of whom died in Illinois, and one in Sacramento, while seven are living, namely: William, engaged in ranching near the parental homestead; Asa, of whom a brief sketch appears on another page of this work; Mary, wife of Joseph Burke, of Los Angeles county; Jesse, of this county; Samuel, residing on San Fernando road, north of the city; Martha, wife of Eli Taylor, of Los Angeles county; and Elizabeth D., wife of John Erick, living near the old race track. Mrs. Hunter survived her husband a number of years, passing away on the ranch where she had lived for so many years.

**GEORGE A. GOODRICH.** Arroyo Grande is fortunate to be able to count among its citizens George A. Goodrich, a fine old gentleman, well educated, fully posted on all matters of general interest and extensively traveled, and one who is scrupulously honest in every word and deed, all of these qualities having earned for him the high esteem of all members of the community. He is a member of the Masonic order, and politically a firm believer in the principles advocated by the Republican party. At various times he has served his country in official capacities, having been a postmaster during his residence in Illinois, and also in the same state

Figure 13 - Jesse D. Hunter Biography. J.M. Guinn, 1907, *A History of California*, pg. 2098.

## Asa and Petra (Ortiz) Hunter

Some children attempt to follow in their parents' footsteps and fail miserably, but Asa Hunter continued in the tradition of his father, creating a land-based wealth in Los Angeles few rivaled (Fig. 14). Asa and his mother, Keziah, drove his siblings from Illinois to Sacramento via Salt Lake City (Figs. 15, 17), to join Jesse's gold-mining ventures. After moving to Los Angeles, Hunter got into the family business of brick manufacturing, bringing in an estimated \$25,000 for every 1,000 bricks at the business' peak (Fig. 13). Wanting to go out and forge his own path once brick manufacturing wound down, Hunter became a farmer in Antelope Valley before eventually returning to the Los Angeles area at the behest of his parents. He would go on to rent out acreage to farm families in the area before eventually selling off select plots (Fig. 16). His wife, Petra Ortiz (often gentrified to the anglo-saxon friendly Hortese Hunter), would continue selling off plots of land to ensure financial security, most notably Hunter Terrace and Elysian Gardens which today make up the majority of the Silver Lake area (Fig 18). Ortiz celebrated the opening of the land developments by hosting a barbeque attended by an estimated 2,000 people (Fig. 19), resulting in her becoming a beloved member of the community in her own right. When she passed away in 1926, the *Los Angeles Sunday Times* referred to her as a "female pioneer" (Fig. 20).



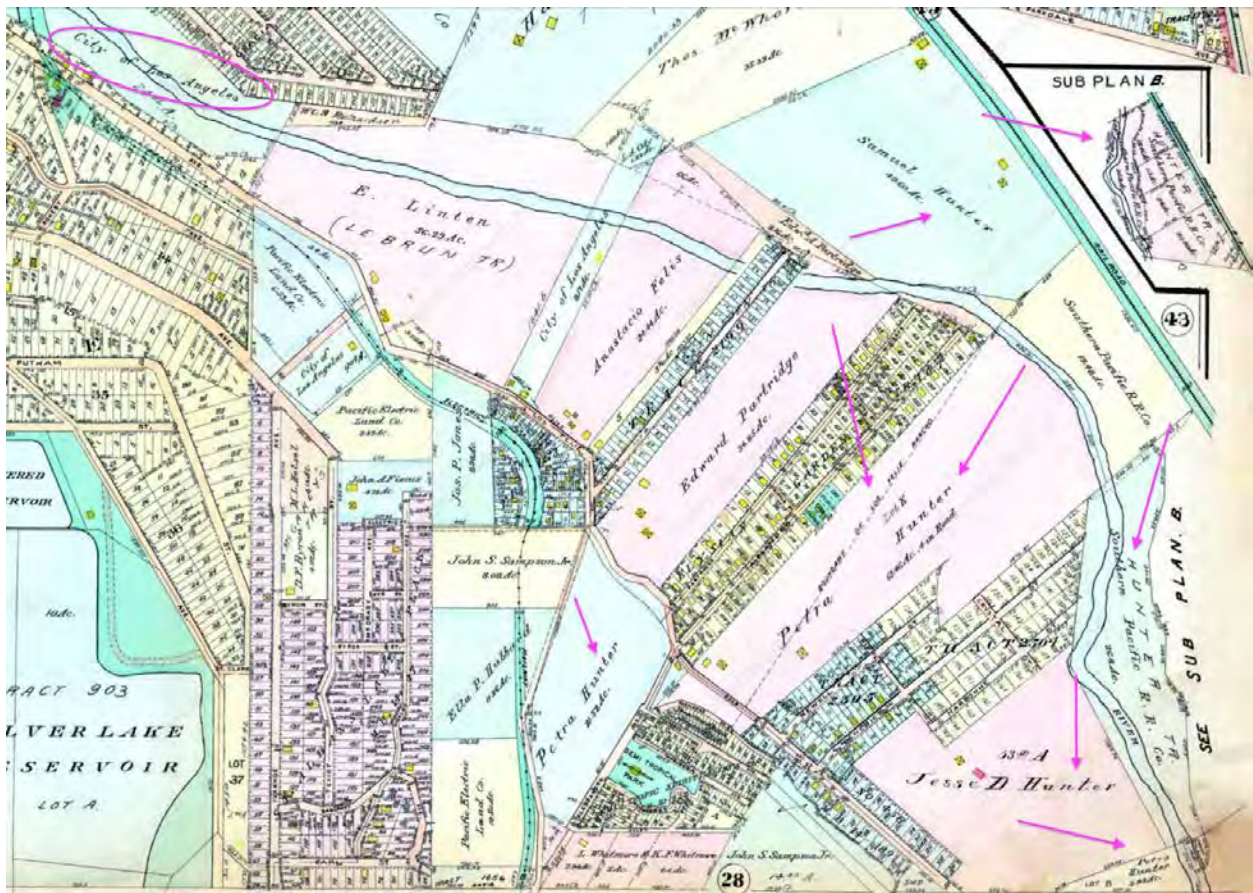


Figure 14 - A map showing the magnitude of the Hunter Family Territory in 1914. (Plate 042), *Los Angeles - Baist's Real Estate Surveys*.



of Sutter county for several terms. Mr. and Mrs. Hungerford became the parents of seven children, of whom five are living and all are located in California.

The first educational training of Wallace Hungerford was received in the common schools of Colusa county, Cal., the course being completed in the grammar schools of Norwalk. This training was supplemented by a course in the Whittier College and a private school, where he perfected himself in a general course of study. Returning to the ranch he remained with his parents until he was twenty-three years old, when he set out for himself, locating on the ranch where he has made his home for the period of fourteen years, engaging in general ranching and the dairy business, the latter being supplied by a herd of fifteen cows and the milk shipped to Los Angeles. All of the thirty-eight acres comprising the ranch are in excellent condition, well cultivated and he has added improvements which make of the property one of the valuable properties of this section. Mr. Hungerford is a Good Templar, is interested in the advancement of educational affairs (now serving as trustee of the Carmenita district), and is a member of the Methodist Episcopal Church South. Politically he is an advocate of Democratic principles. He is one of the substantial citizens of this section, held in highest esteem for the splendid qualities of citizenship he has already displayed, for the business ability which is bringing him success, and the character of his manhood.

**HENRY TELESOPHARE GIROUX.** In the pioneer days of the state H. T. Giroux, for many years a well-known merchant of Santa Monica, left Canada, his native land (having been born in the vicinity of Montreal, February 28, 1828) and sought to try his fortunes among the undeveloped conditions of the Pacific coast. His father, Pierre Giroux, was a farmer of Canada, where he was born, a son of Jean Giroux, an emigrant from France, his native country, and a blacksmith by occupation. H. T. Giroux learned the trade of blacksmith under the instruction of his older brother, Eucher Giroux, the head blacksmith of the Grand Trunk Railroad Company in Montreal. In 1852, fired by the glowing reports of the wealth of California, he left Canada, and from an eastern port took passage on a vessel for the Isthmus of Panama, which he crossed on foot; from there he went by boat to San Francisco, landing absolutely penniless, but fortunately not lacking in courage and energy. He immediately found work as a dish washer, perfectly willing to accept anything that afforded him an honest livelihood. After four weeks he journeyed to the mines in Eldorado

county, where as a miner, grocer and liquor merchant he made a small fortune. Later he carried on mining almost exclusively, and like many others during those historic times made and lost several fortunes. He made two trips back to his home in Canada, the first time in 1865 and again in 1871, going and returning each time by way of the Isthmus of Panama. He became a well-known figure in Eldorado county, where he was identified for many years with mining interests.

In 1875 Mr. Giroux located permanently in Southern California, taking up his residence in Santa Monica, where he established the first store, selling groceries and liquors; with the growth of the town his interests increased, success accompanied his efforts, and he is today in possession of a comfortable competence. He still maintains his interest in the mercantile affairs of the place, still conducting his store, while he has also invested in property here, owning a business lot 50x150 feet, located on Second street. Mr. Giroux is a member of the Knights of Columbus, and in politics is a staunch Republican, having cast his first vote for Lincoln and ever since has maintained his loyalty for his party.

**ASA HUNTER.** Coming to Los Angeles more than half a century ago, Asa Hunter, living on a ranch located in the northern suburbs of the city, holds a leading position among the pioneer settlers of this section of Southern California. From his early manhood he has taken an intelligent interest in the welfare of his adopted city and county, materially aiding the progress and development which has been carried on so rapidly, and to such a remarkable degree. As a representative agriculturist, he has achieved success by unremitting toil, directed by sound business principles, and as an honorable and upright citizen he possesses the confidence and good will of the entire community, being respected and esteemed by the young and the old. A native of Kentucky, he was born in 1832, a son of the late Jesse D. Hunter, of whom a brief biographical sketch may be found elsewhere in this volume.

His parents moving to Illinois when he was a child, Mr. Hunter was brought up in Hancock county, living there until about fifteen years of age. In 1847 his father started with the Mormon battalion for the Pacific coast, leaving his wife and five of the children, of whom Asa was the oldest child, to follow at a later period. In 1848 therefore the family started across the plains with an ox-team train, going first to Council Bluffs, Iowa, where they spent the winter. The following spring they continued the journey, Asa driving the oxen, his team being the second one to drive into Salt Lake City. Continuing

Figure 15 - Asa Hunter Biography, J.M. Guinn, 1907, *A History of California*, pg. 2096



the journey westward, he piloted the family safely to Sacramento, arriving on July 4, 1849, after a trip full of hardship and anxiety for the brave youth on whom rested the entire responsibility of caring for his mother, brothers and sisters. His father and his brother William subsequently joined them in Sacramento, and after a brief stay in that place brought them to the southern part of the state. On locating in Los Angeles in 1851 Mr. Hunter became associated with his father, first as a manufacturer of brick, and afterward as a farmer, remaining with him until 1867. Going then to Antelope valley, Mr. Hunter purchased a ranch, and for seventeen years was there prosperously employed in stock raising and dealing. Returning then, at the urgent request of his father, to the old homestead, he tenderly cared for his parents as long as they lived, and has since resided here. By industry, good management and persistency of purpose, Mr. Hunter has accumulated a handsome competency, and is now living practically retired from active pursuits. He has recently been disposing of much of his landed holdings, at the present time owning eighty acres of city property, and but seventy-five acres of land outside of the city limits. For many years he raised small fruits and berries in large quantities, but at the present time leases a large share of his land. He is a most loyal and faithful citizen, and since coming to this part of California more than fifty years ago, has been outside of Los Angeles county but three times.

Mr. Hunter married Petro Hortese, who is of Spanish descent, and they are the parents of six children, namely: Emily, wife of Jacob Snyder, of Los Angeles; William, a dry goods merchant in Los Angeles, having a well-stocked store on Broadway, between Fifth and Sixth streets; Richard, living on a ranch adjoining his father's, married Mattie Polick and has two children, Asa and Harben; Aleck engaged in farming near the home ranch; Josie, living at home; and Keziah, wife of Daniel Gage, a guard in the state prison at San Quentin. Politically Mr. Hunter is a decided Republican, but he has never been an aspirant for official honors, his private business requiring his entire time and attention.

**GUSTAV ADOLPH GEHRING.** The ancestral home of the Gehring family is in Baden-Baden, Germany, where both the father and mother of Gustav Adolph were born. The elder Gehring was a baker by trade, and left Germany in 1848, coming on the ship Clipper around Cape Horn to San Francisco, where he arrived eight months later. As the gold excitement was then at its height, he went to Trinity county to

work in the mines, and during the ten years he remained there met with very good success in his undertakings. By way of Panama and New York City he returned to his native land during the early '50s, and upon his return brought his wife. They came by way of the Isthmus and went direct to Trinity county. Subsequently he sold out the mines which he had there and went to San Francisco for a year, after which he settled at Santa Cruz, engaged in the bakery business for a time, then retired from active work, and both he and his wife died at Soquel several years later.

The birth of Gustav Adolph Gehring occurred December 14, 1858, in Trinity county, Cal., he being next to the oldest child in a family of six children. He received his education first at a private school in Trinity county and then in the public schools of Santa Cruz county, and after his school work was completed learned successively the baker's trade, milling and stone dressing. Later he was employed in the Almaden mines for a year, and subsequently prospected and mined in Trinity and El Dorado counties. Following this he was foreman in a lumber camp in Mendocino county for a time, and in 1896 went to Yuma county, Ariz., where he was employed in the King of Arizona mine, operated by the Blaisdell Company. He then went to the desert country and engaged in sinking wells for H. W. Blaisdell, sinking a three-hundred-foot well, which he timbered, and also ran the pumping plant. Later he was employed at the Venus and Mars mine, also running the steam pumping plant there, and following this went to the Senolar and Fortuna mines.

In 1890 Mr. Gehring located in Temescal, Cal., on a bee ranch, remaining there until 1892, when he removed to Elsinore and has been conducting an apiary at this place ever since. His ranch comprises one hundred and twenty acres, which is improved for honey production, and he owns three hundred colonies of bees, placed in patented hives. He divides his time between raising comb honey for the market and his mining interests, among his holdings being an interest in the Gold Standard mine, which has a shaft two hundred and twenty-five feet deep.

Mr. Gehring was married at Santa Cruz to Miss Charlotte F. Jenkins, who was a native of that place, and she was residing there at the time of her death. She became the mother of three children: Gustav J., of Elsinore; Henry E., of Shasta county; and Irene, of Soquel. By his second marriage Mr. Gehring was united with Mrs. Carrie F. (Robinson) Laws, widow of Benjamin Laws, who died in Fullerton. She is the daughter of J. W. Robinson, a native of New York, a pioneer farmer of Ithaca, that state, and now residing at the head of Elsinore lake on a

Figure 16 - Asa Hunter Biography *Continued* (Harbin's Grandfather), J.M. Guinn, 1907, *A History of California*, pg. 2096

## **MINED HIS OWN GOLD.**

**Bought Large Ranch Here When  
Land Was Easy to Get—Pioneer  
Dies After Long Illness.**

Asa Hunter, aged 80 years, died last night at the family residence, No. 941 Los Feliz road, on the ranch his parents entered as a homestead in 1849 and the improvements on which they paid for with California gold which he and his father, Jesse Hunter, mined between 1846 and the year of Asa's arrival with his mother. The senior Hunter was accompanied across the plains from the family homestead in Kentucky by his elder son William, who was killed by Jack Craig, while doing police duty in this city sixteen years ago.

Asa Hunter and his mother were with the second party to drive an ox team into Salt Lake City. That was in 1848 and Asa was then 18 years of age. They reached Los Angeles a year later and at once located on the ranch which was to be their permanent home.

Some years later Hunter was married to Miss Petra Ortiz in the Antelope Valley, and his widow survives him. His eldest son, William, is the head of the clothing firm of William Hunter and Company. His other children are Mrs. Emily Snyder, Mrs. Josie Hare, Mrs. D. W. Gage, Richard Hunter and Aleck Hunter.

Much of the original ranch has been sold to the Southern Pacific, but more than 100 acres of the old homestead remains intact.

The pioneer was ill for six months with inflammatory rheumatism.

Funeral services will be held at the late residence this afternoon at 1 o'clock and interment will follow at Evergreen.

Figure 17 - Asa Hunter Obituary, February 16, 1912, *Los Angeles Times*.





**COME-Be Our Guest at the Grand Opening of the Adjoining Subdivisions**

# HUNTER TERRACE —AND— ELYSIAN GARDENS

**Free Barbecue Lunch at Beautiful Hunter Terrace**

You are cordially invited to attend a good old-fashioned barbecue lunch prepared by the famous Joe Romero on the slopes of Hunter Terrace at noon, Sunday, April 2.

You'll like Hunter Terrace. It offers a wonderful combination of high-sitting ground—close to the center of the city—at astonishingly low prices. If you buy on opening day, the special discounts will save you from \$75 to \$250.

There are only 21 lots in Hunter Terrace. Over one-fourth of them have been sold in advance of the opening.

**SUNDAY, APRIL 2**

**FREE LOT**

Given away at Elysian Gardens—3 p. m.

Registrations for the free lot will be accepted any time before noon, Sunday, April 2. There are no strings. If you have already registered, be on hand before 3 p. m. Sunday. To win a lot you must be there to claim it.

**See the Improvements at Elysian Gardens**

Beautiful as the property was before, it has been immensely improved by careful grading. Streets are laid out. Concrete work is under way. Water pipes are ready to lay. Several houses are finished and others are being rushed to completion. The city is planning extensive improvements immediately adjacent to this tract. All this spells big profits to those who buy early and get the benefit of the introductory prices.

**Lots as \$700 On Easy Terms**

Special Discounts on Opening Day. Additional reductions for building with cash. All improvements included at these prices.

## SUNDAY IS YOUR LUCKY DAY

**How to Reach the Property**

**BY STREET CAR:** Take Edendale car on 8th St. Ride to end of the line. Our tract office is there.

**BY AUTO:** Drive through the Third St. Tunnel to Figueroa, and follow the Glendale car line through Hollywood. Keep to the right of the tracks, following Alessandro St. through the pass. Hunter Terrace is to the left of the road. Elysian Gardens is just around the corner on Riverside Drive. (Formerly called Lee Potts Boulevard.)

Tract Offices for both Hunter Terrace and Elysian Gardens:  
2351 Alessandro St., Tel. WU 5146 4022.  
Also Riverside Dr. and Knox Ave.

**Follow the Hunch and Come to Our Grand Opening**

**OWNERS AND SELLING AGENTS:**

**Elysian Gardens Syndicate**

1123 Story Bldg., 6th and Broadway Tel. 61307

Figure 18 - A BBQ and open house for Hunter Terrace by Petra Hunter (Harbin's grandmother), April 2, 1922, *Los Angeles Times*.

## TO OPEN NEW TRACT WITH BIG BARBECUE.

An elaborate barbecue luncheon, prepared under the supervision of Joe Romero, will be served at Hunter Terrace at noon today. Preparations are being made for serving more than 2000 people. Following the barbecue the guests will visit Elysian Gardens, the adjoining subdivision which is being marketed by the same syndicate.

Hunter Terrace, which for more than sixty years has been in the possession of the Hunter family, was recently purchased by the Elysian Gardens syndicate from Mrs. Petra Hunter.

Figure 19 - A BBQ and open house for Hunter Terrace hosted by Petra Hunter April 2, 1922, *Los Angeles Times*.

## Communication from Public

**Name:** Amy Minter

**Date Submitted:** 03/02/2024 03:34 PM

**Council File No:** 23-0953

**Comments for Public Posting:** Documentation is Support of CMC Designation for 12305 Fifth Helena - PART THREE





## Part Three

**Main Office Phone:**  
310-798-2400  
**Direct Dial:**  
310-798-2409

**Carstens, Black & Minter LLP**  
2200 Pacific Coast Highway, Suite 318  
Hermosa Beach, CA 90254  
[www.cbcearthlaw.com](http://www.cbcearthlaw.com)

**Amy C. Minter**  
Email Address:  
[acm@cbcearthlaw.com](mailto:acm@cbcearthlaw.com)

February 29, 2024

*Via Email and Public Comment Portal*


Los Angeles City Council and Planning & Land Use Management Committee  
c/o Holly L. Wolcott, City Clerk  
City Hall, Room 395  
200 N. Spring Street  
Los Angeles, CA 90012

Re: Support for Designation of 12305 Fifth Helena Drive as Historic-Cultural  
Monument; Council File 23-0953

Honorable Commissioners:

On behalf of the Monroe Preservation Group, LLC, we provide the enclosed documentation in support of the designation of 12305 Fifth Helena Drive as an Historic-Cultural Monument. This documentation includes the Report we submitted to the Cultural Heritage Commission on October 16, 2023 and an Addendum to that report, submitted January 4, 2024, which is intended to be considered in conjunction with the previously submitted documentation. This Report and Addendum provide information in support of the designation regarding the site's connection to influential Los Angeles architect, Harbin Hunter.

Thank you for your time and consideration in this matter.

Sincerely,  
  
Amy Minter

Enclosures:

Report in Support of Hunter-Monroe Residence  
Addendum to Report

# **Section 5**

Harbin Hunter

The Architect & Mexican Architecture Focus

**Harbin Hunter**

Born to Richard and Martha Hunter, Harbin Hunter grew up on the farm established by Asa Hunter. In 1914, Harbin experienced a life-altering accident when he hammered a nail into a firework, resulting in the loss of three fingers on his left hand (incorrectly reported at the time as losing his entire left hand, Fig. 21). This disfigurement was noted on his draft card (Fig. 22). Despite this loss, Hunter entered into the architectural profession (Fig. 23), becoming one of Los Angeles' premiere architects.

Hunter embarked on a trip to Mexico in 1921 to study Mexican architecture with Eugene Weston and Joseph L. Feil (Figs. 24-25). This trip would eventually result in a three-volume set of books of photographs that were showcased to architects in Los Angeles, essentially kicking off the Spanish Colonial Revival style unique to Los Angeles in the 1920s as discussed in our original submission (Period of Significance, para. 4). Although the photos in the book are not labeled, we believe several photographs show Hunter, including the man seen in Figures 26 & 27 of this addendum.

## STORM PLAYS AWFUL PRANK.

**Deposits Bomb From Fireworks Plant Within Reach of Small Boy, Who Is Seriously Injured.**

A prank of the recent storms, in washing away eight boxes of bombs from a fireworks plant in a canyon of the upper San Fernando Valley, is responsible—at least as an accessory

—for an accident yesterday on the famous Hunter ranch, about two miles above the Pigeon Farm, on the Los Feliz road, which cost the young Hunter heir, Harbin, 14 years old, his left hand, and caused painful injuries. The lad was rushed into the city and taken to the Sisters' Hospital, where he was operated upon early last night.

The bombs, which are about six inches in diameter, and used generally in motion picture battles, were washed by the heavy floods down the Los Angeles River, three or four of the boxes reaching the Hunter ranch, where they were found by young Harbin Hunter and his neighbor playmates.

The boy got hold of a big nail and started hammering it through the heart of one of the bombs, when the thing exploded, blowing the boy's hand off and cutting his body superficially with the hard material of which the bomb was made.

The boy was taken to the ranch home and later rushed to the Sisters' Hospital. Harbin Hunter is a grandson of the late Asa Hunter, early pioneer and original owner of the famous Hunter ranch. He is son of Richard Hunter, present owner of the place.

Figure 21 - Harbin Hunter's accident on "the famous Hunter Ranch," March 10, 1914, *Los Angeles Times*.

Form I **280** REGISTRATION CARD No. **271**

1 Name in full **HARBIN FRANCIS HUNTER** Age in yrs. **21**

2 Home address **1655 Los Feliz Blvd, L.A., Cal.**

3 Date of birth **September 30 1896**

4 Are you (1) a natural-born citizen, (2) a naturalized citizen, (3) an alien, (4) or have you declared your intention (specify which)? **a natural born citizen**

5 Where were you born? **Los Angeles, Cal. U.S.A.**

6 If not a citizen, of what country are you a citizen or subject?

7 What is your present trade, occupation, or office? **father brick place Los Angeles, Cal.**

8 By whom employed? **F. Weber**

Where employed? **36 South Los Angeles**

9 Have you a father, mother, wife, child under 12, or a sister or brother under 22, solely dependent on you for support (specify which)? **mother, Martha Hunter 1655 Los Feliz Blvd**

10 Married or single (which)? **single** Race (specify which)? **white**

11 What military service have you had? Rank **\_\_\_\_\_**; branch **\_\_\_\_\_**; years **\_\_\_\_\_**; Nation or State **\_\_\_\_\_**

12 Do you claim exemption from draft (specify grounds): **\_\_\_\_\_**

I affirm that I have verified above answers and that they are true.

**V** **Harkin Francis Hunter**  
**H. F. Hunter**  
(Signature of owner)

11 person is of Alien Service, card

REGISTRAR'S REPORT **44-15. B**

1 Tall, medium, or short (specify which)? **med** Slender, medium, or stout (which)? **stout**

2 Color of eyes? **blue** Color of hair? **blond** Bald? **no**

3 Has person lost arm, leg, hand, foot, or both eyes, or is he otherwise disabled (specify)? **three fingers of left arm missing**

I certify that my answers are true, that the person registered has read his own answers, that I have witnessed his signature, and that all of his answers of which I have knowledge are true, except as follows:

**Frank Gardner**  
(Signature of registrar)

Precinct **\_\_\_\_\_**

City or County **\_\_\_\_\_**

State **Div. 15, Los Angeles, Cal.** **6 5 '18**  
(Date of registration)

Figure 22 - Harbin Hunter Draft Registration Card, June 5, 1918, United States Government.



STATE <u>California</u>		DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE-BUREAU OF THE CENSUS		191-421		SUPERVISOR'S DISTRICT No. <u>8</u>		SHEET No. <u>251</u>													
COUNTY <u>San Diego</u>		FOURTEENTH CENSUS OF THE UNITED STATES: 1920-POPULATION		NAME OF INCORPORATED PLACE <u>San Diego</u>		WARD OF CITY <u>San Diego</u>		ENUMERATION DISTRICT No. <u>6802</u>													
TOWNSHIP OR OTHER DIVISION OF COUNTY		NAME OF INSTITUTION		ENUMERATED BY ME ON THE <u>12</u> DAY OF <u>January</u> 1920		BY <u>Conrad Schuler</u>		ENUMERATOR													
PLACE OF BIRTH	NAME	RELATION	SEX	AGE	CITIZENSHIP	EDUCATION	NATIVITY AND BIRTH PLACE										OCCUPATION	VALUE OF REAL ESTATE	VALUE OF PERSONAL ESTATE		
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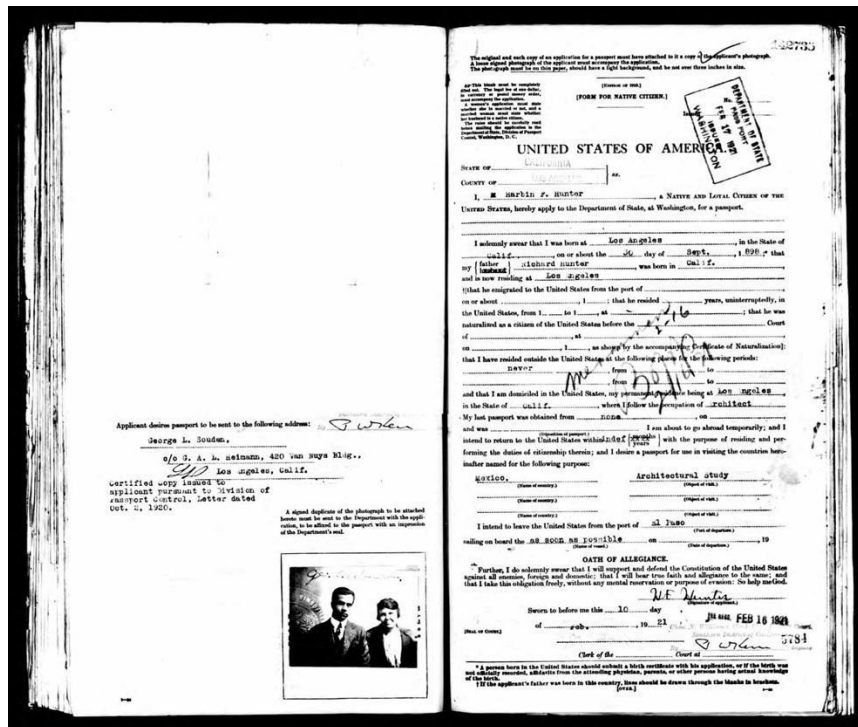
Hunter Harbin 9

Architect Building 11 65

Figure 23 - Harbin Hunter listed as an "architect" on the 1920 Census, January 12, 1920, United States Government.

1 United States of America {  
2 STATE OF CALIFORNIA { ss  
3 COUNTY OF LOS ANGELES {  
4 The undersigned, H. F. Hunter, being at this date  
5 a resident of the City of Los Angeles, State of California, over  
6 the age of twenty-one years, being first duly sworn, deposes and  
7 says:  
8 That he is a citizen of the United States of America;  
9 That he wishes to make application herewith for a  
10 passport to entitle him to travel in Mexico for the purpose of  
11 study; and,  
12 That this trip is made necessary because of his  
13 work in an architectural way in this city; and,  
14 That information derived from this trip is  
15 necessary in order to complete certain architectural work under-  
16 taken in the City of Los Angeles at the present time;  
17 IN WITNESS WHEREOF, the affiant has hereunto set  
18 his hand in the City of Los Angeles, State of California, this  
19 ninth day of February, 1921.  
20  
21 H. F. Hunter  
22 AFFIANT  
23  
24 SUBSCRIBED AND SWORN TO BEFORE ME THIS 9th day of February, 1921.  
25 Richard E. Leland  
26 NOTARY PUBLIC  
27 IN AND FOR THE COUNTY OF LOS ANGELES  
28 STATE OF CALIFORNIA  
29  
30 MY COMMISSION EXPIRES: 12-28-1922.  
31

Figure 24 - Harbin Hunter's passport is evidence of his intent to study more about Mexican Architecture in Mexico, February 9, 1921, United States Government.



and that I am domiciled in the United States, my permanent residence being at LOS ANGELES in the State of Calif., where I follow the occupation of architect. My last passport was obtained from none, on \_\_\_\_\_, and was \_\_\_\_\_.

I am about to go abroad temporarily; and I intend to return to the United States within 10 months with the purpose of residing and performing the duties of citizenship therein; and I desire a passport for use in visiting the countries hereinafter named for the following purpose:

Mexico,

(Name of country.)

Architectural Study

(Object of visit.)

(Name of country.)

(Object of visit.)

(Name of country.)

(Object of visit.)

I intend to leave the United States from the port of El Paso sailing on board the AS SOON AS POSSIBLE on \_\_\_\_\_, 19\_\_\_\_.

#### OATH OF ALLEGIANCE.

Further, I do solemnly swear that I will support and defend the Constitution of the United States against all enemies, foreign and domestic; that I will bear true faith and allegiance to the same; and that I take this obligation freely, without any mental reservation or purpose of evasion. So help me God.

Sworn to before me this 10 day of Feb., 19 21.

[SEAL OF COURT.]

NE Hunter  
(Signature of applicant.)

SEE REG. FEB 16 1921

Clerk of the \_\_\_\_\_ Court at \_\_\_\_\_

\* A person born in the United States should submit a birth certificate with his application, or if the birth was not officially recorded, affidavits from the attending physician, parents, or other persons having actual knowledge of the birth.

† If the applicant's father was born in this country, lines should be drawn through the blanks in brackets.

Figure 25 - Harbin Hunter's Passport is evidence of his intent to study more about Mexican Architecture in Mexico, February 10, 1921, United States Government.



Figure 26 - Harbin Hunter's Passport photo compared to a photo of a man in the "Mexican Architectural Details" book co-written by Hunter.

- Left - February 10, 1921, United States Government
- Right - Likely 1921, Eugene Weston, Harbin Hunter, *Mexican Architectural Details*.





Figure 27 - A man resembling Harbin Hunter studying Mexican Architecture, "Mexican Architectural Details", likely 1921, Eugene Weston, Harbin Hunter, *Mexican Architectural Details*.



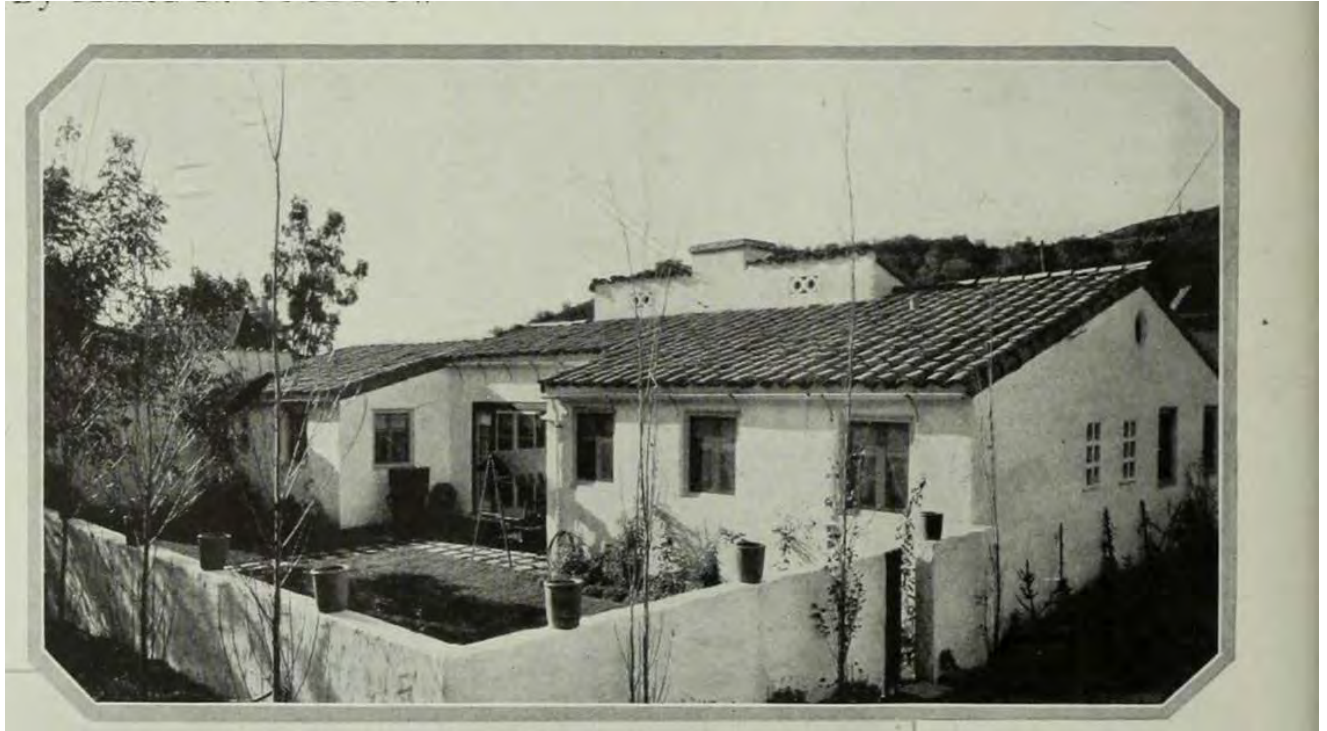
## **Section 6**

Harbin Hunter, John DeLario,  
Relevant Works, and 12305 Fifth Helena

### **Hunter Elements**

Although we previously referenced the Harbin-DeLario partnership in our original submission (Period of Significance, para. 4), we find it necessary to showcase how both men influenced one another as well as similarities with their work. Figures 28-30 show DeLario's work compared to Fifth Helena. Similar design elements can easily be seen, including the use of terracotta tiles on the roof, adobe walls, rounded archways, mason pathway to the front door, and rectangular, paned windows.

We have also chosen to include several elements from a confirmed Harbin Hunter designed building, the City Bank Building in Huntington Beach, to 12305 Fifth Helena in an effort to show how Hunter's design trademarks were included in the home. Although no direct documentation survives showing the architect of Fifth Helena, we believe enough evidence exists to overwhelmingly support the idea Hunter designed the home for his parents (Figures 34-39).



*The walled garden  
in California has a  
rare charm. The en-  
closure in the home  
of Mr. J. B. Smith  
is paved in the man-  
ner of a Spanish  
courtyard. John L.  
DeLario, Architect*

Figure 28 - A Spanish colonial work by John L. DeLario, building partner to Harbin F. Hunter. The home looks very similar to 12305 Fifth Helena, June 1928, *Arts & Decoration*, pg. 48.



Figure 29 - Rear of 12305 Fifth Helena, 2012, % TheMLS.com



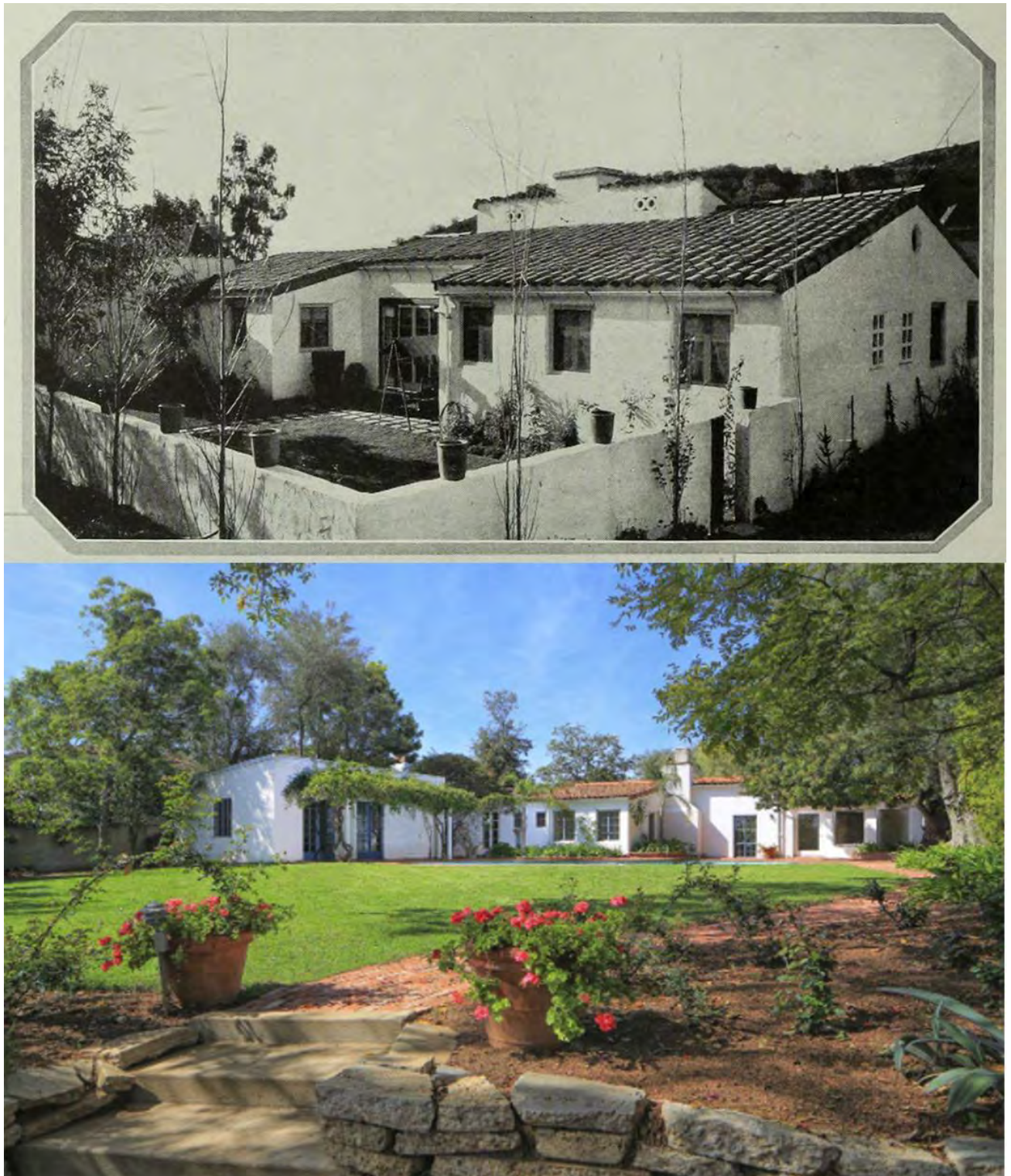


Figure 30 - A composition of Figures 28 and 29 to highlight the similarities in work done by John DeLario & Harbin Hunter, Remi Gangarossa, 2023.





Figure 31 - An early Brentwood developer, possibly Harbin Hunter, holding a set of blueprints next to a pile of bricks in Brentwood, 1926, Dick Whittington, USC Digital Library.



Figure 32 - Entryway and courtyard, 2012, % TheMLS.com





Figure 33 - A composition of Figures 27, 31, and 32 showcasing who we believe to be Hunter in Mexico and several years later in Brentwood as well as the intricate brickwork at Fifth Helena.



Figure 34 - City National Bank Lobby, Mott Studios, 1929, California State Library, California History Section Picture Catalog.





Figure 35 - Entryway and living room of Fifth Helena, 2017, TheMLS.com





Figure 36 - Composition of Figures 34 & 35 between the City National Bank building built by Hunter in Huntington Park and Fifth Helena. Notice the beamed wooden ceilings, arched doorways, light fixtures, and porcelain tiles are all similar elements between the two structures.



Figure 37 - Tiles from City National Bank designed by Hunter which are similar in appearance to those appearing around Fifth Helena fireplace, Mott Studios, 1929, California State Library, California History Section Picture Catalog.



Figure 38 - Fireplace tiles first installed by Hunter and restored by Monroe, 2017, % Phillip Treacy



Figure 39 - Composition of Figures 37-38 between the tilework at the base of the wall in the City National Bank building lobby and the tile surrounding the fireplace at Fifth Helena.

# **Section 7**

Harbin Hunter

Other Architectural Works & References  
that Shaped Los Angeles



### **Harbin Hunter - Other Architectural Works & References**

Although we summed up Hunter's architectural achievements in our original submission, we elected to include items on that list (Period of Significance, para. 5) as well as other confirmable projects to illustrate Hunter's work. One of the strongest testaments to Hunter's work as an architect was the hiring of his services by notable Angelenos, including famed restaurateur Mike Lyman. We believe ending the addendum with Hunter's work allows readers to better understand his significance in Los Angeles as well as appreciate the work we've lost over the years due to zealous developers.



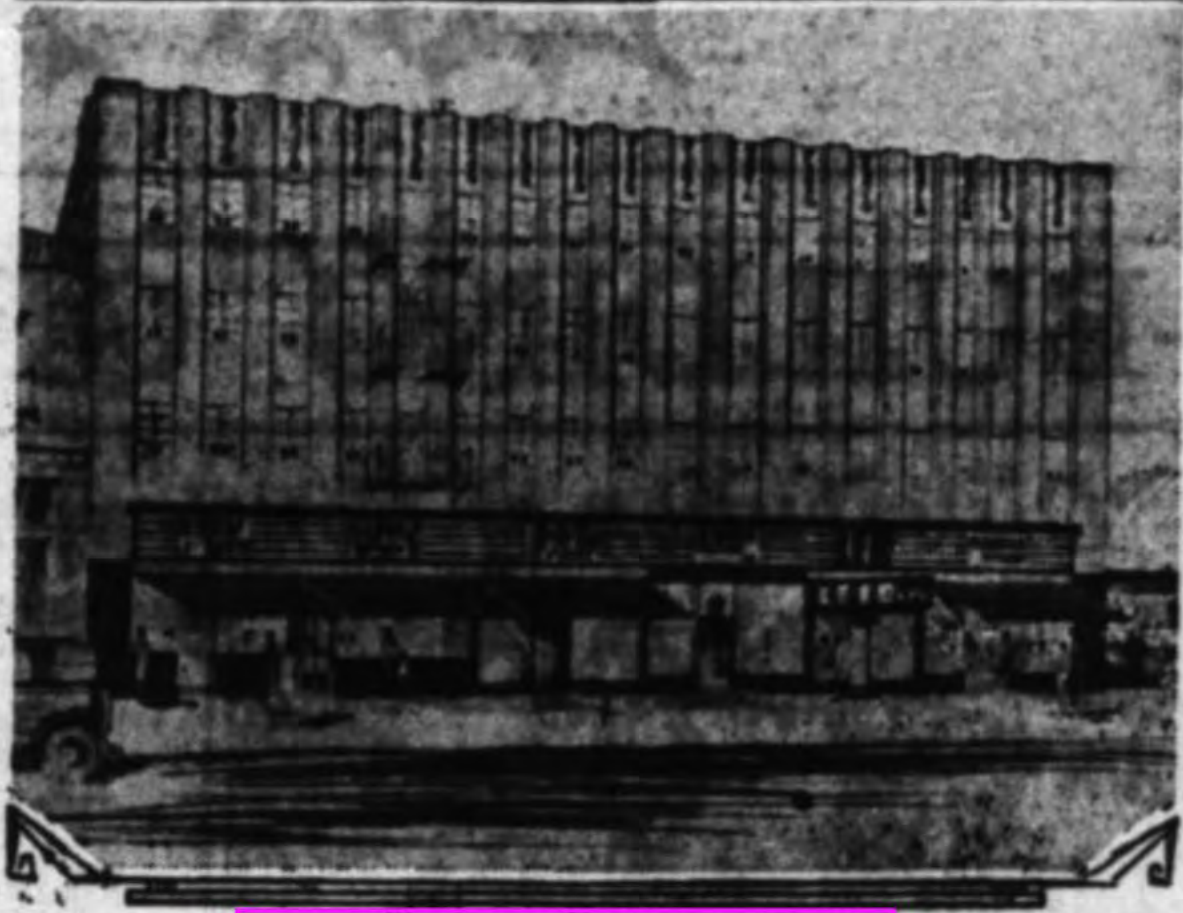
Figures 40 - 42 – Chapeau De Mode, Hollywood Boulevard, Los Angeles, designed by Harbin Hunter, 1920, Mott Studios, California State Library, California History Section Picture Catalog.



Santa Monica Public Library Image Archives

Figure 43 - Lido Hotel, 1447-1457 Fourth Street, Santa Monica, California by architect Harbin Hunter, Santa Monica Public Library.

## *Store, Apartment Building to Rise*



### **Santa Monica Structure Pictured**

Above is shown a four-story Class C store and apartment building to be erected at 1449 Fourth street, near Broadway, Santa Monica, for and by D. S. McEwan, 318 Marine street, Ocean Park. It will be of modern design, 100x100 feet in area and will contain thirty-four apartments and five storerooms. The cost will be \$135,000. Architect Harbin F. Hunter, Los Angeles, prepared the plans and specifications.

Figure 44 - Harbin Hunter prepares for plans and specifications of a store and apartment building in Santa Monica, March 1, 1931, *Los Angeles Times*.

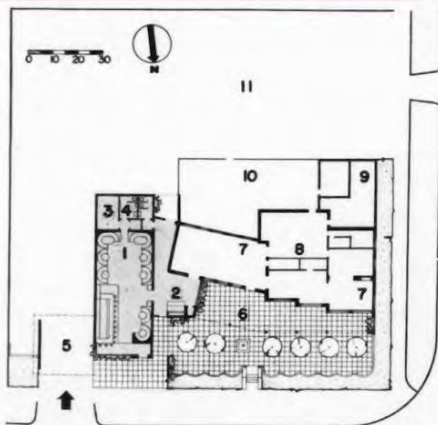




Street Front; recessed entrance at left

## LINDY'S REMODELED CAFÉ SHIFTS TO "AL FRESCO" DINING

HARBIN F. HUNTER  
Architect



Plan

- |                    |                   |                  |
|--------------------|-------------------|------------------|
| 1. Cocktail Lounge | 4. Toilet Rooms   | 8. Kitchen       |
| 2. Entry           | 5. Porte-cochere  | 9. Storage       |
| 3. Office          | 6. Dining Terrace | 10. Service Yard |
|                    | 7. Dining Rooms   | 11. Parking      |

DESPITE OCCASIONAL spells of "unusual" weather to which even Los Angeles is subject, outdoor dining there is increasingly popular. Thus when an addition to the existing Spanish-type building which housed Lindy's Restaurant was decided upon, arrangements for a large dining terrace were an important part of the plan. This partly covered terrace is sheltered from direct sun by its location on the north side, and protected from the streets by retaining and wing walls. Also included in the new structure are cocktail lounge, entry, office and toilet rooms. (New structural work is shaded in accompanying plan.) In adding the new portion, the entire establishment went through a metamorphosis—the architectural character being changed from neo-Spanish to modern. Circulation in the finished building now pivots around the entry and cashier's booth (2 on plan). Evidence of the automobile's increasing supremacy is the fact that the main entrance to the restaurant is from the porte-cochere. A large lot at the rear provides parking space.

BUILDING  
NEWS

APRIL 1938

51

Figure 45 - Harbin Hunter remodels "Lindy's Café" in Los Angeles, April 1938, *Architectural Record*, pg. 51.





*The glamour that goes with Grey English Harewood is typified by this installation at Brock & Co., Jewelers, Wilshire Blvd., Beverly Hills, Cal. Design by Harbin F. Hunter, Architect, Joseph L. Feil, associate. Installed by Petersen Showcase & Fixture Co., Los Angeles.*

## GREY ENGLISH HAREWOOD

ONE of the richest and, incidentally, one of the most expensive of the cabinet woods. Harewood (imported England Sycamore), is really a species of Maple. Its natural color is white, but an intricate process developed abroad adds color to the wood and gives pronounced distinction to the figure. The most popular shade developed is silver gray—a delicate tint which affords a rich, aristocratic finish. Our stocks are

fabricated from imported veneers, carefully selected for grain and length. We have on hand a great number of selected veneer flitches of both the grey and the natural. Among these is one of the most unusual flitches ever imported. It is grey, the veneers running from 18" to 30" wide and from 7' to 8' long, with a heavily marked figure throughout the entire veneer. Samples of this or other flitches are available for inspection, on request.

### GRAY ENGLISH HAREWOOD

SIZES	Good ONE Side
-------	---------------

13/16"—5 ply	
36 x 72....	\$1.50
36 x 84....	1.50

Stock at New York.

### NARRA

SIZES	Good ONE Side
-------	---------------

1/4"—3 ply	
36 x 72....	\$ .42
36 x 84....	.45
36 x 96....	.48

13/16"—5 ply	
(Lumber Core)	
36 x 72....	.72
36 x 84....	.75
36 x 96....	.78

### ORIENTALWOOD

Figure 46 - Harbin Hunter Design for Brock & Co., Jewelers, 1938, *The Plywood Catalog*.



ROTHSCHILD'S MEN'S STORE, Beverly Hills, California: Harbin F. Hunter, AIA, architect. Fixture design and layout is intended to simulate the casual grouping of furniture in a home. The display ledge, continuous along the two side walls, contains stock drawers at intervals. Most stock is kept in opaque cases or a separate stock room. Show windows are open-backed; stock displayed here is also available from within the shop. Below, at right, men's shaving, perfumery, and jewelry display case.



Figure 47 - Rothschild's Men's Store with Harbin Hunter as the architect, April 1939, *Architectural Record*, pg. 112.



STORE FOR Brock and Company, Los Angeles. Harbin F. Hunter, AIA, architect; walls are paneled in figured woods, and the floor is heavily carpeted. Interior layout is planned to provide for personal contacts between salespeople and customers, with little or no merchandise available for the customers to handle. The semi-private salesroom is, in this case, intended for showing expensive silver services rather than sale of precious stones. Space beneath stairs is used for stock storage; mezzanine contains offices.

chandise available for the customers to handle. The semi-private salesroom is, in this case, intended for showing expensive silver services rather than sale of precious stones. Space beneath stairs is used for stock storage; mezzanine contains offices.



Above, plan of ground floor, showing connection with adjacent hotel lobby. Show windows, on both the lobby and the street sides, are subdivided into small display spaces, comparable in scale to objects displayed.

Column display case



Entrance to Silver Room



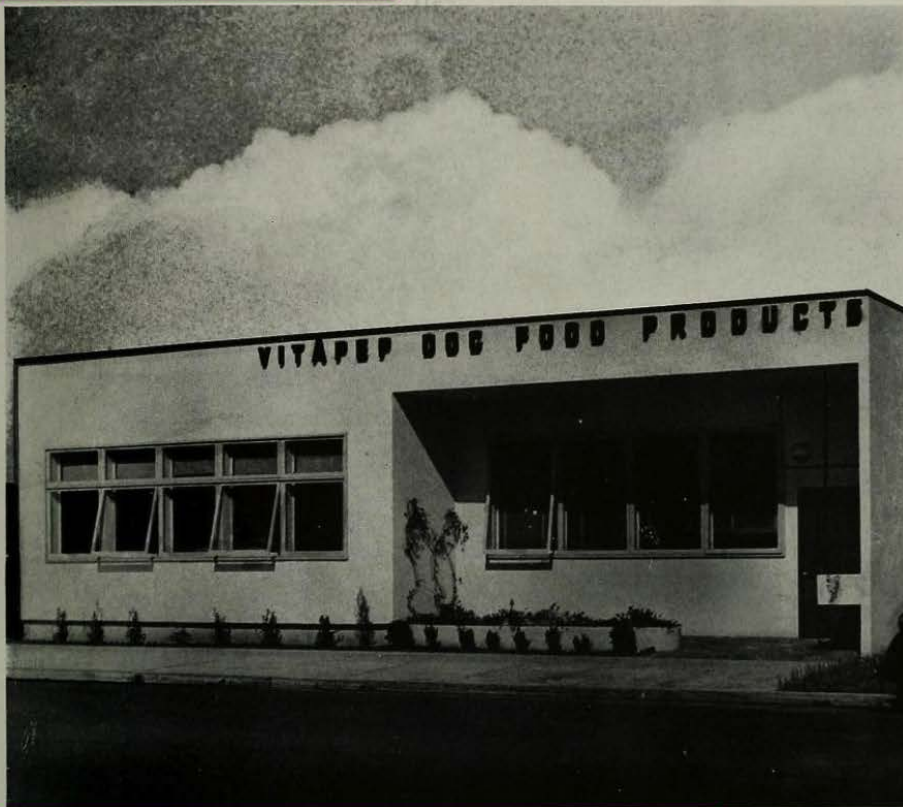
Interior, Silver Room



Figure 48 - Rothschild's Men's Store, April 1939, *Architectural Record*, pg. 118.



HARBIN F. HUNTER, ARCHITECT



BUILDING FOR VITA-PEP DOG FOOD PRODUCTS, LOS ANGELES, CALIFORNIA



DETAIL

OCTOBER, 1939



ENTRANCE

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Figure 49 - Vita-Pep Dog Food Products, October 1939, *Architect and Engineer*, pg. 29.

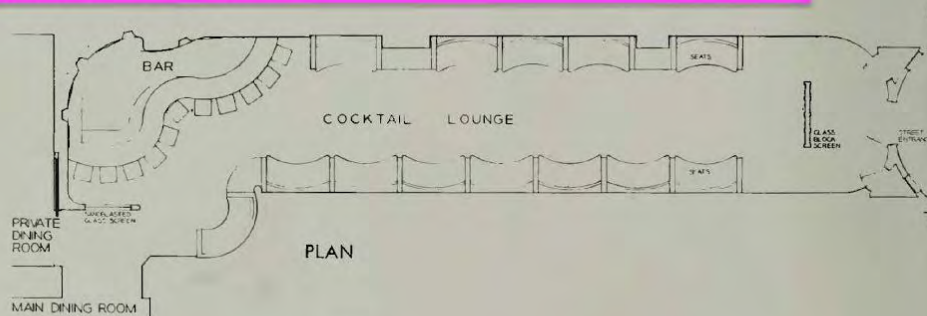




Figure 50 - Mimi's Dress Shop, Los Angeles, California, October 1939, *Architect and Engineer*, pgs. 30-31.



STREET ENTRANCE TO MIKE LYMAN'S RUMPUS ROOM, LOS ANGELES, CALIFORNIA  
Harbin F. Hunter, A.I.A., Architect



28

ARCHITECT AND ENGINEER

Figure 51 - Mike Lyman's Rumpus Room, December 1940, *Architect and Engineer*, pg. 28.

## RUMPUS ROOM A COCKTAIL LOUNGE

Harbin F. Hunter,  
Architect

A UNIQUE cocktail lounge, styled by the owner, Mike Lyman, as a "Rumpus Room," has recently been completed in Los Angeles, from plans by Harbin F. Hunter, architect, who has supplied the following descriptive matter: Located to one side of the main dining room of the hotel, the lounge is directly in front of the private dining room. It is so situated that it may be operated with or independent of the main restaurant.

The entrance is enriched with a sandblasted glass screen, illuminated by concealed colored fluorescent lights. The bar is also illuminated by fluorescent lights back of sandblasted glass panels as shown in the photographs. The entire lounge is illuminated by fluorescent troughs extending across the room. Face of the bar and adjoining wall paneling are Zebra hardwood of a warm red finish. Side walls are lined with seats upholstered in coral color leather. Storage cases for linens, etc., built of Primavera hardwood, connect the seats at columns.

The floor is covered with a velvety carpet of a warm brown pattern to match the general color scheme of the room. The exterior of the place is faced with Roman travertine marble and bronze trim in the entrance floor of Realwood Formica.



DETAIL OF BAR



GENERAL VIEW OF INTERIOR

DECEMBER, 1940

29

Figure 52 - Mike Lyman's Rumpus Room, December 1940, *Architect and Engineer*, pg. 29.



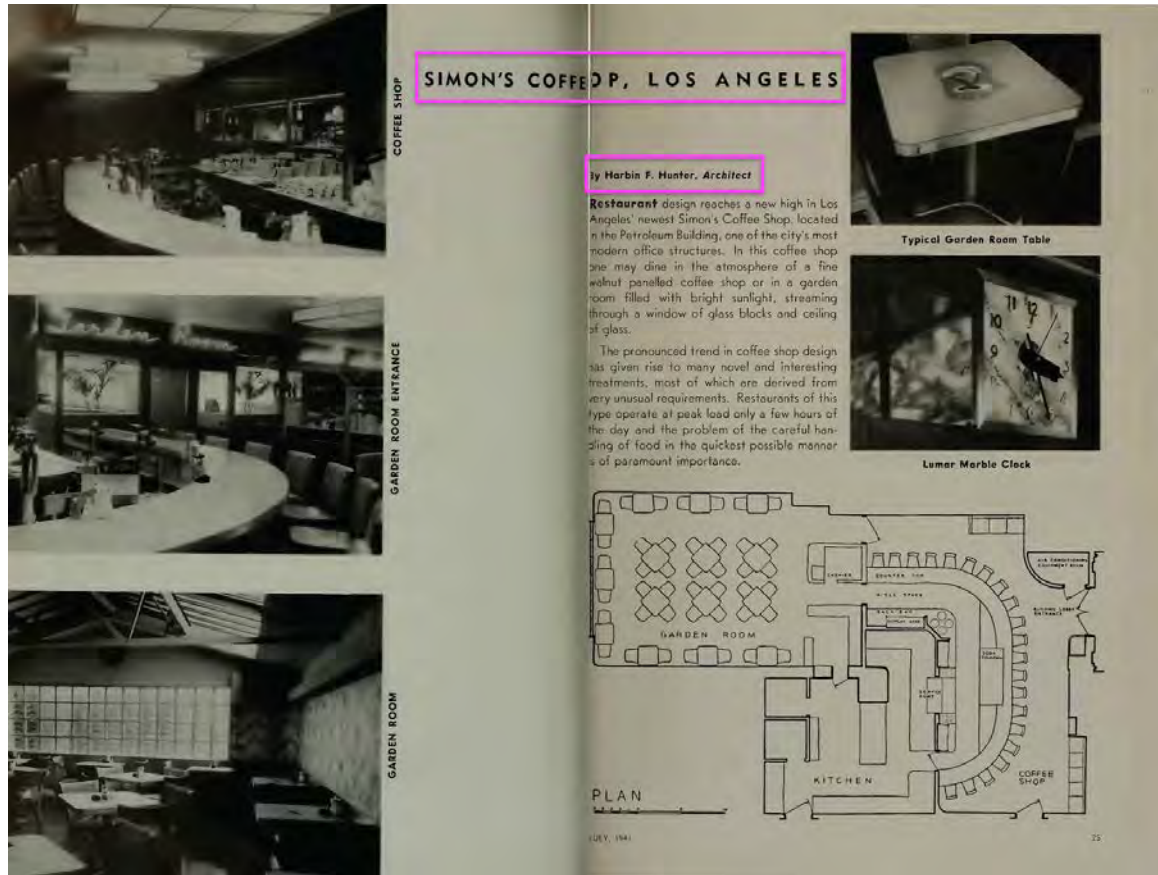


Figure 53 - Simon's Coffee Corp., July 1941, *Architect and Engineer*, pg. 26.





AFTER



BEFORE

## STORE

**PARMELEE-DOHRMANN STORE, LOS ANGELES, CALIF. HARBIN F. HUNTER, ARCHITECT.** Although the new store occupies the upper floors and basement of this 4-story building, skillful planning called for only two bays plus a rear entrance corridor on the first floor. By this device, a minimum of expensive ground floor space was required; yet the building elevators are part of the store, and there is valuable direct access from the large parking lot at the rear. The new store front is faced in ceramic veneer and glass block. Trim and letters are of nickel silver. The general contractor was C. W. Driver, Inc.

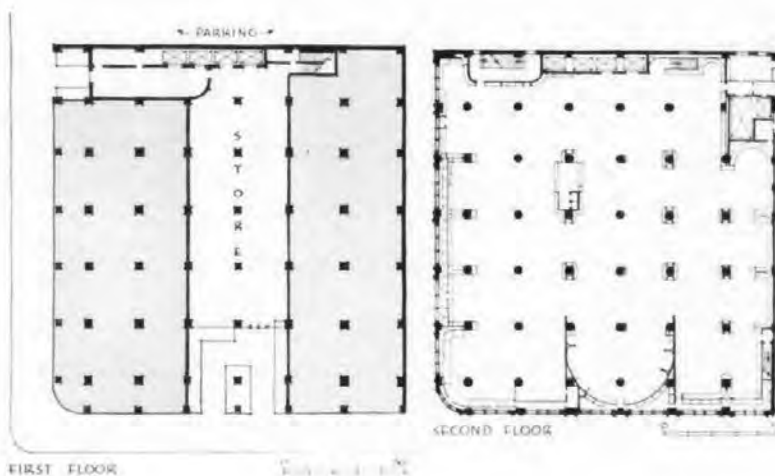


Figure 54 - Parmelee-Dohrmann Store. February 1942, *Architectural Record*.